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JPRS L/8575

18 July 1979

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 30/79)



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WORLDWIDE REPORT
NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

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AUSTRALIA

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ISSUES REPORT ON DRUGS

Marihuana Recommendation Rejected

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 16 May 79 pp 1,2

[By Peter Ward]

[Text]

THE South Australian Government will not legalise personal use and growth of marijuana despite a recommendation by the Sackville Royal Commission into non-medical use of drugs.

The Premier, Mr Corcoran, announced the decision when he released the 440-page final report of the commission in Adelaide yesterday.

Mr Corcoran said adoption of the commission's recommendation for "partial prohibition" was fraught with difficulties and dangers.

He said: "The Government believes the research done on the effects of cannabis on driving is inconclusive. Unlike alcohol, cannabis is difficult to detect in the blood, urine or breath of a driver. It therefore poses special problems for road law enforcement."

In a relatively brief section of its report, the commission said that while smoking marijuana in private and growing it for personal use should be legalised, the sale of the drug should continue to be an offence.

It also said that people who smoked marijuana in public should face a fine.

Mr Corcoran said the Government agreed with the commission that there was a relationship between the general rate of use of mood-altering drugs and the rate of their misuse.

He said: "In response to this finding we believe this justifies a policy of not promoting the legalised use of more mood-altering drugs for non-medical purposes, including cannabis."

"In doing so, the Government does not necessarily accept that the effects of cannabis are any worse than those of alcohol or any more habit-forming."

"The abuse of alcohol does cause considerable harm in the community and the Government does not intend to promote the use of any more mood-altering drugs that would be socially dangerous."

The Sackville Royal Commission was set up more than two years ago by the then Premier, Mr Dunstan.

It has made 77 recommendations, including a call for a major reorganisation of drug education in South Australia.

Other recommendations include:

TOUGHER measures to help detect drug misuse.

RETENTION of stiff maximum penalties for supplying drugs.

EXTENSION of the offence of supply to cover prescription-only drugs.

A COMPLETE revision of all State drug legislation.

REPEAL of the offence of permitting premises to be used for consumption of drugs.

HEROIN to remain prohibited, but for the Government to move for a national body to investigate whether it has therapeutic advantages as a pain-killer.

SUPPLY of compound analgesics (including popular brand names) on a prescription-only basis.

REPEAL of legislation authorising the compulsory confinement in institutions of drug-dependent people.

USE of listening devices, intrusive body searches and small payments to police informers in investigations of serious drug-related crime.

REFERRAL to special assessment and aid panels of all people charged with simple drug offences.

Mr Corcoran said the Government was most concerned about the misuse of compound analgesics and action had al-

ready been taken to limit their availability.

"Cabinet has issued instructions that the royal commission's recommendations to further restrict their availability should be examined and acted upon as soon as possible."

He said the royal commission had produced a thorough, comprehensive and wide-reaching report of international standard and significance.

It had been appointed because the State Government believed the State should move toward a clear, general and consistent social policy for regulation of the non-medical use of drugs.

Referring to other commission recommendations, Mr

Corcoran said the Government would closely examine the call for the establishment of drug assessment and aid panels.

"There is room for improvement in the enforcement of the law relating to drug offences and to the treatment of drug addicts."

He said the Government endorsed in general terms the recommendation that drug-education programs in schools and in the wider community should take place within the context of a broader health education program.

He said the Government accepted the commission's recommendation that resources should be made available for an expanded health education program embracing drug edu-

cation. The Government was also very interested in a number of recommendations affecting the treatment of drug misusers.

In considering the royal commission's report, he said, the Government's objective would be to minimise the harmful consequences of the non-medical use of drugs.

Mr Corcoran said it was impossible to give the Government's views on all the recommendations.

"We will need to study the report."

Report Described, Analyzed

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 16 May 79 pp 5, 9

[Report by Peter Ward]

[Text]

THE South Australian Royal Commission into the Non-Medical Use of Drugs has spoken. The question now is, how many people will bother to hear.

Australia's first exhaustive study into the non-medical use of drugs is a sane, reasonable, cautious yet liberal document.

Accordingly, it will infuriate those of the opinion that the drug problem can be solved by harsh legal and social sanctions, please those who want an objective assessment of what is meant by the words "drug problem" and annoy and frustrate those who are already convinced that hallucinogens

and cannabis in particular, are Good Things.

The pity of it all is that the reaction to the commission's recommendation of what, in its jargon, is called "a partial prohibition model" for cannabis will obscure the overall substantial contribution the report should make to the community's understanding of drugs and their place — not only their use — in contemporary Australian society.

Under its "partial prohibition model" the commission recommends that cultivation and possession of cannabis for personal use be decriminalised, though dealing in the drug for profit remain illegal. That is, you can grow it and smoke it, but not sell it.

In the commission's opinion, no substantial change in the patterns of use of the drug will occur if this course

if followed. But then, in effect, it ducks for cover.

"We are aware that legislators must take into account public opinion, and that change cannot fly in the face of widely held attitudes," it says, going on to give the South Australian Government a course by which it can escape the post-Dunstan rocks and shoals of permissive reforms.

"The anxiety that this issue is capable of arousing has been well illustrated by some of the responses in the political arena to our own work." "We do not see it as our role to recommend the timing of legislative change, but rather to indicate the proper direction of change."

The sound and the fury of the cannabis recommendation will take some time in dying down, as will the political points-scoring that, as was expected, is now fol-

lowing the publication of the report.

Steamy politicking was inevitable, since the SA commission was, as it were, conceived as a party political act and born following considerable Premierial labor.

In mid 1976 the SA Liberal Opposition charged that the State Government was preparing to decriminalise cannabis following a call by the State A.L.P. Annual Conference for the Government to set up an inquiry into all aspects of the regulation of cannabis.

The call followed a campaign within the ranks of the A.L.P. for decriminalisation of cannabis, spearheaded by then Professor of Politics at Flinders University, and now MHR for the seat of Bonython, Dr Neal Blewett.

Powerful A.L.P. forces were on Blewett's side. A royal commission is a traditional South Australian method of dealing with hot political potatoes, by way of dunking them in a cold bath of words. The then Premier, Mr Dunstan, thus acted.

On January 13, 1977, the SA Governor gave his commission to the three commissioners, the Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of NSW, Ronald Sackville, the then deputy director of the SA Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Dr Earle Hackett, and the head of the School of Social Studies at the SA Institute of Technology, Dr Richard Nies.

The terms of reference were very broad and clearly signalled that the commission had a far larger task before it than reporting on cannabis. Nevertheless, it rapidly became known as "the Cannabis Commission" by those who wanted to make of it a drum on which to beat out a message of drug crisis and permissive social confusion as a result of Premier Dunstan's avowed intention to lead a Government of reform.

PREMIER Dunstan himself was eventually found to have provided a stick for that drum by way of his appointment of a former political associate, a London-based lawyer, Mr Denis Mathhead, as counsel assisting the commission. A total of \$166,000 in fees and London-Adelaide air fares were paid in that area out of a total of \$782,000 for the commission as a whole.

But politics aside, the final report of the commission is an impressive study into one of society's most vexed areas of change and moral conflict. It endeavors to clear away the political cobwebs, cut down the swollen shibboleths, and restrain the shriller community responses to the use of illegal and legal drugs by examining drug use in the widest possible social context consistent with its terms of reference.

It was a daunting task, even for a two-year study. "The very definition of a drug is a matter of public confusion," says the commission's report summary. "Alcohol, nicotine and caffeine, for example are powerful drugs constantly used for non-medical purposes.

"The commission points out that the illicit use of drugs is not necessarily more harmful than the use of drugs obtained legally.

"Whether or not the use of a drug (or drugs) is harmful to the individual or the community depends on a combination of factors such as the dosage and strength of the drug, the route of administration (swallowing, inhaling, smoking, injecting), the physical and emotional characteristics of the users, the setting, and the extent to which other drugs are used at the same time." And then the permissive, realistic crunch comes:

"The commission concludes that it is unrealistic for the community to attempt to

eliminate the non-medical use of drugs.

"This is partly because a large proportion of the community does use drugs non-medically, notably alcohol, caffeine and nicotine.

"Moreover, even if general agreement could be reached on the desirability of eliminating non-medical drug use, this would require a degree of surveillance of private behavior that simply cannot be achieved in a democratic society."

Having made its position absolutely clear to that extent, the Commission then argues that:

"THE community should be mainly concerned with the harmful aspects of drug use and drug related behavior."

"THE objective of social policy should be to minimise the harmful consequences of the non-medical use of drugs.

"THOSE related objections should aim at areas of "public safety" and "community health and welfare."

For the commissioners, it has been a hard and politically vexed road to tread because they decided that rather than sit in regular formal sessions they would construct their report and recommendations on the basis of a wide and informal range of contributions from individuals and community groups in the first instance.

The result is a closely argued report that makes 77 major, telling recommendations to the Corcoran Government. It is probably — in its range of contacts, its intellectual rigor, and its avowed position of high social responsibility — the most important document arguing for specific legislative and administrative action that the Dunstan-Corcoran Government has ever received. (And there has been a veritable paper-chase of such reports over the years, arguing for urgent action by an increasingly slow-acting regime).

The first major test of Premier Corcoran's statesmanship will be how he and his anxious, cautious Cabinet deals with such impeccably reasonable argumentation.

The test has been foreseen by the commission. In the words of Thomas Hobbes, as inserted in the frontpiece quote by one of the erudite commissioners: "I know not how the world will receive it, nor how it may reflect on those who seem to favor it."

"FOR in a way beset with those that contend, on one side for too great liberty, and on the other side for too much authority, 'tis hard to pass between the points of both unwounded."

It is a wise and discriminating quotation: for the 77 recommendations are national in their implications if locally South Australian in their fine administrative details.

The commission was appointed shortly before the Commonwealth Government appointed its Williams Royal Commission into the area of law enforcement as applied to drugs in Australia, and the NSW Government appointed its Woodward Royal Commission into the supply and possession of "drugs of addiction."

"Our formal powers were broad enough to authorise us to adopt a wide-range role," the SA commission says.

And accordingly as its summary writers say: "Generally speaking, there is a relationship between the general rate of use of a mood altering drug and the state of its misuse."

"This justifies a policy of controlling availability and discouraging the use of mood altering drugs as a

means of reducing the harmful consequences of drug use.

"However, such a policy does not necessarily mean that greater reliance has to be placed on criminal sanctions."

"The range of official controls includes administrative measures (such as prescription requirements, record-keeping, monitoring of supplies), treatment and education programs, as well as the criminal law."

"Choosing the appropriate controls requires a careful consideration of the social costs and benefits of each approach."

The social costs and benefits of non-medical drugs are, for the commission, the rub. Its 77 detailed and qualified recommendations are designed, as it says, to minimise "the harmful aspects of drug use and drug-related behavior."

Describing its approach as humanitarian it says: "We have been careful to stress the need to clarify the community's understanding of the 'drug problem'."

"This involves recognising the need to care adequately for those who have suffered harm associated with their drug use."

"It is more consistent with the values of a humane society to regard dependence not as a self-inflicted wound, but more as an inevitable consequence of society's inability to forego or control absolutely the availability of drugs, chemicals and pharmacological knowledge."

"Success in this area is often very difficult to achieve and considerable patience and persistence may be required."

As to the causes of the non-medical use of drugs, the commission says that the search for identifiable causes "often reflects a wish for a simple explanation of the 'drug' problem and for a straight-forward solution to

the question of how non-medical drug use can be controlled."

In its analytical examination of the pharmacological properties of the various mood-altering drugs — alcohol, tobacco, analgesics, barbiturates, benziazepines, amphetamines, xanthenes (such as tea and coffee), cocaine, inhalants, cannabis, hallucinogens and opiates — it says it has not been established "that cannabis causes progression to the illegal use of other drugs, specifically heroin."

"This does not rule out some association between cannabis use and illegal use of other drugs — nevertheless, a cause is one thing and an association quite another."

The commission says that it formed no evidence to support the view that cannabis use is associated with aggression and violent crime, and that controlled clinical studies of heavy and prolonged use of cannabis have not revealed brain damage.

In general the commission could find no evidence to support the view that cannabis was more potentially dangerous in prolonged use than other mood-altering drugs, such as alcohol.

Far more problematical provable medical effects, it found, resulted from prolonged use of opiates like heroin and morphine and stimulants like cocaine.

But it would not generalise from its study: "Physical dependencies on all mood-altering drugs are, logically, related to dosage, method of administration and the length of time during which a drug had been taken."

It also says a lack of comprehensive local information concerning rates of use and varying criteria depending of the points of view held by different communities makes it hard to establish the actual extent of drug misuse in the community.

But one message is clear, it says: "The misuse of mood-altering drugs involves not only prohibited drugs but drugs available over the counter or on a doctor's prescription."

Moving from its consideration of the extent of non-medical drug use in South Australia, the commission devotes a major section of its report to a detailed consideration of organized education as a response to drugs.

It says formal education is much less effective in changing behavior related to drug-taking than most people realize. Nevertheless, while "the community has to reassess its faith in drug education as a solution, carefully constructed drug education programs do have an important part to play in improving understanding of the drug problem."

"Drug education in schools should be entrusted to trained teachers, and take place within the context of a broad health program, in order to place the drug problem in a wider perspective."

It says that school education is unlikely to be effective unless the whole community's understanding of the drug problem improves and that therefore a high priority should be given to adult education in the widest sense.

The commission says that like education, the treatment of drug misusers, including addicts, is often seen as the answer, but there too the issues are more complex than is often thought.

It says special problems include the difficulty of what is to be treated, since the circumstances of people requiring treatment for drug misuse are very different and addiction itself is not a single easily diagnosed condition.

It says lip service is often

paid to the "goal of abstinence from drug use," but in practice this is often unattainable for addicts and even more modest objectives such as "improved social functioning" may prove elusive.

Examining the legal controls on non-medical drug use in South Australia, the commission recommends that all South Australian legislation imposing administrative and criminal controls on the availability and use of mood altering drugs should now be revised and consolidated into a single law.

It says that a major question it had to consider was whether the offence of simple possession of drugs (other than for trading) should remain in SA legislation.

It concluded that it should, but in a modified way, to make the offence more sensitively able to perform the functions it can be "reasonably expected" to perform, namely deterrence and concomitant referral of drug users requiring assistance to appropriate treatment facilities.

At the same time, the commission has rejected the idea of legislation providing for the compulsory treatment of addicts on the grounds that such legislation "is unfair in its operation and not likely to achieve any worthwhile objectives."

The recommendations made by the commission of drug classification also relate to education, treatment and legal controls. It regards them as "very important indeed, yet are not likely to be seen by the general public as particularly controversial."

The problem, it says, was particularly acute in relation to compound analgesics, cannabis and heroin.

From its examination of the relationship between the heavy use of compound analgesics and kidney disease, it concludes that the drugs should be moved to a prescription-only status, while with heroin there is danger in a policy of total prohibition applied to only one opiate narcotic.

"That suggests the drug problem is simply one of the availability of a single drug, when in fact it is much more complex," the commission's summary says.

"There is a body of medical opinion which says that heroin has especially valuable properties as an analgesic."

"The commission does not recommend unilateral action, but suggests that a national body such as the National Health and Medical Research Council should conduct clinical trials to investigate this question."

What they were asked

THE commissioners were required to make inquiry into the factors underlying or relating to the non-medical use of narcotic, analgesic, sedative and psychotropic drugs or substances of dependence, not including nicotine or alcohol, and in particular:

1. To marshal from available sources in South Australia, Australia and abroad, information concerning such drugs or substances and their use;
2. To inquire into and report on current scientific, medical, social and other knowledge on the effects of such drugs or substances;
3. To inquire into and report on the extent and character of the use or abuse of such drugs or substances in South Australia, the types of persons engaging in such use or abuse, sources of supply, and the medical, social and economic factors underlying or associated with such practices;
4. To inquire into and report on the effects of the existing law and its administration in relation to the use of such drugs or substances in South Australia;
5. To inquire into and report on the provision of educational, preventive, treatment and rehabilitation programs in South Australia for persons using or abusing such drugs or substances, and
6. To recommend such changes to the law in relation to the use and abuse of such drugs and the provision of such education, preventive, treatment and rehabilitation programs as you think appropriate.

Further Details Reported

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 16 May 79 p 10

[Text]

All people charged with possessing illegal drugs should appear initially before a three-member drug panel at a private, informal hearing, the South Australian Royal Commission into the Non-Medical Use of Drugs has recommended.

It says new drug assessment and aid panels should be modelled on the aid panels before

which juvenile offenders appear in South Australia.

The drug panels would determine whether criminal prosecution should proceed.

"If the panel decides that a prosecution should not proceed, it should consider what treatment or other action, if any, is required to assist the offender to overcome the problems associated with his use of drugs," the report of the Royal Commission says.

The panels would have no power to force compliance with

their decisions, but could require the offender to appear and give undertakings for up to six months.

They would not try to establish guilt or innocence.

Proceedings would be informal with power to hear submissions from a person who has been treating or counselling the offender. Legal representation is not recommended.

In deciding what action would be taken, the panel would have to take into account the charged person's personal circumstances, his suitability and willingness to undergo treatment or other programs, and the need to protect the community.

"In some circumstances prosecution will be clearly warranted," the report says. "This might be the case where the offender is charged with a number of offences of which possession is only one."

Caution or advice

A first offender who is an experimental user and clearly not in need of any formal treatment might be thought to warrant a caution or advice rather than the stigma of a conviction.

"We emphasise that not all offenders require treatment and part of the panel's function is to identify the offenders who might benefit from treatment," it says.

The commission also recommends the repeal of legislation authorising the compulsory commitment of drug-dependant people to institutions.

POLICE SEARCHES: Special rules for investigation and arrest in drug-related matters should be changed in some cases, it says.

Warrants for police to enter and search premises over drugs should be valid for a specified period of up to 14 days, instead of only during a nominated day.

But warrants to enter and search premises, now in practice issued by police officers, should be issued only by a magistrate or a judge.

However, the Commission recommends also that in an emergency police should have the power to enter and search premises without a warrant. Such situations would include cases where entry is required to prevent destruction of evidence.

Although at common law a person is not required to submit to a search involving bodily cavities, the "Commission said that "because of the techniques used to transport drugs illegally we are persuaded that there may be occasions when it is necessary to conduct a medical examination to ascertain if a suspect is carrying drugs."

Because severe infringement of personal dignity was involved in such searches they should be carried out only after arrest and with the written consent of the person or after a police officer has satisfied a magistrate that there was reasonable cause for the examination.

Consolidation of existing controls over the availability and use of mood-altering drugs under the Controlled Substances Act, is recommended.

In criminal offences, magistrates hearing charges of supplying illegal drugs should be able to impose a maximum \$2,000 fine, two years' jail or both and be able to refer the case to a higher court if a more severe penalty is warranted.

DRUG EDUCATION: A complete review of school and community drug education programs should be undertaken, the Royal Commission says.

Education in schools is often seen as the answer to curtailing the spread of non-medical drug use.

But after evaluating drug-education programs in Australia and overseas the commission concludes that formal education is much less effective in changing behaviour related to drug-taking than most people realise.

"Consequently, the notion that drug-education programs can be used as a short-term measure to reduce markedly the number of young people engaging in illegal or harmful drug use is an over-simplification," it says.

"Indeed, there is evidence that certain kinds of drug education, particularly when outsiders are brought into schools

for 'one-night stands' can actually encourage young people to experiment with drugs."

Drug education in schools should take place within a broad health-education program. This would place the problem in wider perspective.

TREATMENT: The Commission says that treatment for drug use is a far more complex issue than is often thought.

"The special problems include the difficulty of defining what is to be treated, since the circumstances of persons requiring treatment for drug misuse are very different and addiction itself is not an easily diagnosed condition.

Program goals 'difficult'

"It is also difficult to formulate goals for treatment programs and to measure where programs are successful."

Abstinence from drug use is often not possible for addicts. Even more modest objectives such as improved social participation may prove elusive.

In assessing the role of opiate-maintenance programs, the Commission says there are dangers in prescribing methadone too freely as a substitute for heroin.

DRUG SALES: The Royal Commission recommends that compound analgesics, now sold over the counter, be available only on a doctor's prescription.

NSW plans to introduce such a restriction from July 1.

The Royal Commission said: "The evidence strongly suggests that compound analgesics containing caffeine are widely misused, the habituating effects of caffeine being a likely factor in this."

"There are adverse side effects on the kidney resulting from the use of compound analgesics. The single analgesics have their side effects too, but these are not as dangerous as with the compound analgesics."

It says most people can be expected to obtain as much pain relief by using a single as by using a compound analgesic.

The commission says it has changed its tentative opinion on the need to give the retail phar-

maest greater control over the distribution of single analgesic preparations.

It concludes now that the risks of present public use are not great enough to justify restricting their distribution to retail pharmacies.

Final Report of the Royal Commission into the Non-Medical Use of Drugs in South Australia, \$8.95, 440pp. Available from State Information Centre, 25 Grenfell Street, Adelaide, SA, 5000.

National Rules Urged

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 16 May 79 p 8

[Editorial: "National Drug Rules"]

[Text]

THE report of the Sackville Royal Commission into the non-medical use of drugs in South Australia is a useful document. But it will be especially valuable if it gives impetus to a move to produce a national set of rules governing the availability of drugs of all sorts. We are a nation of pill poppers but we tend to regard much of what we swallow as not really coming under the heading of "drugs" — we think of drugs as marijuana, heroin and the like.

Yet, while consideration of these

pernicious substances is important and necessary, it is probably true to say that more damage is done to the nation's health through indiscriminate consumption of legal drugs, both over-the-counter and prescribed, than by the bad drugs — because the consumption is so much greater and so much more widespread. Yet the laws governing prescription and sale vary from State to State. And, indeed, advice on them can vary from doctor to doctor.

It is time for a national appraisal to set national rules and controls.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

DRUG OPERATORS MISLEADING AUSTRALIAN POLICE

OWO62350 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Jun 79 OW

[Text] Allegations were made in the Queensland Parliament today that big drug operators were tipping off customs officers on the arrival of smalltime couriers from overseas. The Liberal member for Toowoomba North, Dr (Lockwood), said the tipoff was part of an overall plot to keep police and customs officers busy with minor interceptions while big heroin consignments were smuggled through. It also helped to impress people that something was being done against drug trafficking.

Dr (Lockwood) said drug rings had also been able to smash the cover of inside agents because they had access to computer leaks and knew exactly what police were doing.

In Federal Parliament in Canberra the minister for business and consumer affairs, Mr Fife, said he had asked the permanent head of his department to insure that any future allegations against officers were immediately brought to his attention. Mr Fife was answering a series of opposition questions about the inquiry under way into the leaking of information by an unnamed officer in the narcotics bureau to an international drug ring.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

ALLEGATIONS ON SMUGGLING--Labor MP Mr. Tom Edmunds offered yesterday to meet senior police about his allegations that organised drug smugglers are operating in Westernport Bay. Mr. Edmunds said he would be happy to meet the head of the police crime department, Assistant Commissioner Rod Hall. "However, if he talked to police from the area, they should be able to substantiate the matter," he said. On Sunday, Mr. Edmunds, MLA for Ascot Vale, claimed organized drug smugglers were operating in the bay area and Hastings was the centre of the smuggling. Police and citizens in the area confirmed that rumors about drug smuggling had been circulating for some time. But no evidence was found. Chief Superintendent Geoff Armstrong, of Frankston police, said that while police were not "silly enough" to dismiss suggestions of drug smuggling they had no evidence of it. "Australia is a big place and drugs can be landed anywhere," he said. [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 15 May 79 p 13]

CANNABIS RESIN CHARGES--Two women and a man appeared in Phillip House Court of Petty Sessions yesterday, charged with importing cannabis resin on or about May 8 and possessing the drug. Mr. R. Butler, SM, remanded Shahina Cassarola, 24, Loris Casarola, 22, and Concetta Eluca, 22, all of McDonald Street, Potts Point, to appear again on May 25. No pleas were entered. Bail was not sought. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 12 May 79 p 5]

\$750,000 DRUG HAUL--Sydney: The police had seized heroin worth more than \$750,000 in a series of raids in the eastern suburbs of Sydney, the central Court was told yesterday. Sgt Colin Spalding, prosecuting, told of a deal to sell 10 kilograms of pure heroin imported from Singapore that was valued at more than \$750,000. Before the court were Stephen Charles Rice (29) unemployed chef, of Centennial Park, Paul Robert McMurray (27), manager, of Belmore, and Nyen Viu Yong (43), company director, of Marine Terrace, Singapore. It was alleged that McMurray possessed and supplied heroin at Double Bay on May 10 and 11 and that he supplied heroin at Bankstown on May 5. Two charges against Yong alleged that he supplied heroin at Summer Hill between April 29 and May 9, and again at Bondi Junction on May 10. Five charges against Rice alleged that he possessed and supplied heroin at Double Bay and at Vaucluse on May 10 and that he supplied heroin between May 2 and May 10. No pleas were entered. The defendants were remanded in custody till next Wednesday. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 12 May 79 p 11]

ADDITIONAL DEFENDANTS--A company director and a racecourse punter were charged in Central Court of Petty Sessions yesterday with supplying heroin. The police prosecutor, Sergeant C. Spalding, said the men were charged after the arrest of three others last week when police seized eight kilograms of heroin valued at \$750,000. Chris Lance Mellanion, 42, company director, of East Crescent Street, McMahon's Point, was charged with supplying heroin between January 1 and May 10 this year. Gerald Kron, 49, employed, of Murriverrrie Road, North Bondi, was charged with supplying and possessing heroin at North Bondi on May 12. Sergeant Spalding said Kron, who was well known at racecourses, had a 14-gram bag of heroin in his possession when arrested. Mr. M. Farquhar, CSM, adjourned all charges to May 18. Both men were remanded in custody. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 15 May 79 p 8] Sydney: Drug squad detectives have arrested a company director alleged by them to be the organiser of Australia's biggest heroin-distribution ring. The CIB men burst into a luxury unit at McMahon's Point, on Sydney's North Shore, late on Saturday and arrested a 43-year-old man. At the same time, other police raided a house at Bondi and arrested a second man, aged 50. The raids culminated a long operation by the drug squad and the CIB crime intelligence unit. The police will allege that the ring supplied most of the heroin being brought into Sydney through the overseas terminal at Mascot Airport. [Excerpts] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 14 May 79 p 4]

ABORIGINE COAST WATCHERS--Darwin: Ten Aborigines have been appointed official coast watchers on Australia's far north coast. Equipped with aluminium dinghys, outboard motors, trail bikes and walkie-talkies, they will be on watch for drug smugglers, illegal immigrants and fish poachers. The Northern Territory Government will put the 10 through a seven-week training course. They will then have a further six months of instruction in the field from the police. A government official said in Darwin yesterday that the NT Government had decided to go it alone because of procrastination and inactivity by the Federal Government. Aboriginal people were traditional coast watchers. During the World War Darwin had received early warnings of Japanese attacks from Aboriginal islanders. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 11 May 79 p 1]

CSO: 5300

BURMA

GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE DRUG MENACE

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 28 Jun 79 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] Burma is waging a national campaign against narcotic drugs. Antidrug exhibitions, talks and mass rallies to denounce drug abuse, in addition to campaigns to destroy narcotic drugs at their source, are part of the on-going campaign against the menace of drug abuse.

The state has been providing treatment and rehabilitation facilities for addicts and helping former poppy growers to take up other useful cash crops.

Although such intensive efforts are being made to stamp out drug abuse, the number of drug addicts is still high perhaps due to the very nature of the drug problem--the drug supply networks being too devious to be easily ferreted and stamped out.

According to latest published reports, there are more than 26,000 drug addicts registered in 117 of the 314 townships in Burma. There may certainly be more such addicts who fail to register themselves with the authorities concerned as seen from frequent news reports of many young people being caught with hard drugs and sent up for trial for failure to register for treatment.

The dangers of narcotic drugs abuse cannot be overemphasised. Narcotic drugs not only harm users physically but also affect their mental health. What is more, an addict is more liable than not to turn into a criminal through the drug habit.

The campaigns to stamp out narcotic drugs at their source and to wipe out the drug-trafficking insurgents, waged by the Tatmadaw and the working people, have gained considerable success.

However, the fact that the number of addicts, especially in urban areas, is still large calls for more intense and sustained efforts to stamp out drug traffickers—from small time pushers to big time operators.

In this connection, widespread drug education is vital. An increasing awareness of the destructive nature of narcotic drugs by the public in general and youths in particular should help in no small measure to wipe out the drug menace. The mass media, no doubt, have been contributing towards this end under the Party's guidelines. However, there is the need for personal involvement of all civic-minded citizens to make available all information so that the public will come to have greater knowledge with regard to the dangers of drugs and thereby take active part in combatting the menace.

It is heartening to note that a second mass rally to denounce drug abuse was recently held under the sponsorship of the Bassein West Township Lanzin Youth Organizing Committee.

Such mass rallies, exhibitions and systematic education, we feel, will greatly help bring about greater public awareness of the magnitude of the narcotic drugs menace and contribute towards the national campaign to stamp out drug abuse.

CSO: 5300

BURMA

BRIEFS

HEROIN SEIZURE IN LATHA--Latha police and Ward People's Councillors seized two packets of heroin valued at K250 each from Khin Lat of Bogale Bazaar Street at the corner of 22nd Street, Latha Township, Rangoon, at 7:30 pm on 27 June. According to information given by Khin Lat, the police party searched the house of Mya Htwe in 22nd Street, who was allegedly selling heroin. The police seized 13 packets of heroin each valued at K30. A man named Maung Paing who was hiding in the lavatory was also arrested. Police are taking action against Khin Lat, Mya Htwe and Maung Paing under Sections 6(b), 10(b), 13, 14 of the Narcotics Drugs Law. [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 29 Jun 79 p 1]

PUSHER RECEIVES 5 YEARS--The Pabedan Township Court chaired by U Tha Oo Tuesday sentenced Ah Min alias Maung Maung (26) of 119, 30th Street, Rangoon, to five year's imprisonment under Section 6(b) (possession) and to one year and six months imprisonment under Section 14(d) (failure to register for treatment) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. The sentences are to be served concurrently. Ah Min was caught on 10 February 1978 with a hypodermic syringe containing heroin solution by a police party led by Sub-Inspector U Tin U at the corner of Merchant and 30th Streets, Rangoon. [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 29 Jun 79 p 1]

RAW OPIUM SEIZED--Rangoon, 3 Jul--The Railways Police made a large haul of raw opium from two train passengers at the Rangoon Central Station on 27 June night. The police, in searching passengers monk U Pinnya Zawta alias Maung Kyaw and Khin Maung Kyi, seized eight viss and 35 ticals of raw opium from the former and another eight viss and 60 ticals from the latter. Action is being taken against monk U Pyinnya Zawta alias Maung Kyaw of In-gon village, Ye-U Township, and Khin Maung Kyi of Sizon Ward, Daingwunkwin, Moulmein, under Sections 6(b) (possession) and 10(b) (sale) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 4 Jul 79 p 4]

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

CUSTOM INSPECTOR CHARGED WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING

Customs Man in Court

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 27 Jun 79 p 1

[Text] A customs inspector will appear in North Kowloon Court today on a drugs charge.

He is expected to be charged with conspiring with another man and with persons not in custody to traffic in dangerous drugs between 1 June last year and 31 January this year through the airport.

The inspector was arrested at the airport on Monday evening and the other man was arrested last Saturday evening on his return from Singapore.

Following the man's arrest, police raided his Mei Foo Sun Chuen home and seized eight ounces of heroin.

The man was remanded in jail custody until today following a court appearance.

Narcotics Bureau officers have been investigating a syndicate allegedly involved in smuggling drugs in suitcases through Kai Tak.

Customs Inspector Charged

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 28 Jun 79 p 10

[Text] An inspector of the Customs and Excise Services, Lau Hon-tung (33), and an unemployed man, Cheng Shi-sang (27), were yesterday charged with conspiring with others to traffic in dangerous drugs between 1 June last year and 31 January.

Mr. H. Caine at North Kowloon Court remanded both defendants for seven days in police custody.

No plea was taken.

COS: 5300

HONG KONG

ALCOHOLISM ON THE RISE BUT DRUG ABUSE STILL MAJOR PROBLEM

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 24 Jun 79 p 8

[Article by Neil Perera]

[Text] Alcoholism, the latest problem spreading rapidly among teenagers in the United States and Europe, may be spilling over to Hongkong.

Hongkong, it seems, is gradually getting into the mainstream as a result of what a local schoolteacher describes as: "Those numerous flashy pubs."

Discotheques are believed to be another source of alcohol being consumed by teenagers.

But while the new phenomenon appears to be in its infancy here, drug abuse among Hongkong students continues to remain the concern of school authorities.

A police spokesman said people under 18 are not allowed to be served alcohol in liquor-licensed premises.

The switch to "booze," in preference to drugs, apparently stems from the sense of awareness of the dangers of drug abuse now being created all over the world.

At best, frequent use of drugs can cause irreparable brain damage. At worst, it can result in death.

While alcohol can be readily bought by any teenager at a supermarket, drugs are becoming increasingly difficult to buy because of stepped-up police surveillance and spiralling costs.

The Narcotics Bureau's Superintendent Dick Williamson says: "There is a definite trend in Western society towards alcohol becoming the problem. There are instances of young people becoming alcoholics--a very worrying thing.

"So if one has to look towards a trend, I'd say to look to alcoholism becoming a problem."

Psychologists concur.

"Yes, there is evidence to suggest more and more young people are turning to alcohol than they did before," said one.

Another revealed that a decade or so ago, it was not uncommon to see a youth serving liquor in a pub in England.

"Obviously, he was doing so to earn some pocket money.

"But today it is the opposite. The young man has the money to spend and he is served by a much older barman who needs to supplement his meagre pension."

In Hongkong, reputable pubs comply with the law and serve only soft drinks to teenage customers and even less well-known bars are reported to be refusing to serve alcohol to youngsters.

"This is probably due to the frequent visits by police which result in unpleasantness among the clientele.

Whether alcohol will become a vogue with teenagers in Hongkong is yet to be seen.

But drug abuse remains the major headache for school authorities. Statistics show drug abuse by under 20s is only three per cent; the police say it is a minor problem.

Supt Williamson admits drug abuse is more common among expatriate students--but hastens to add it is also prevalent among certain Anglo and Westernised Chinese schoolchildren.

I recently talked to the principals of schools catering mainly for Hongkong's expatriate children to determine the extent of drug abuse by their students.

The Headmaster of Hongkong International School, Mr David Rittman, said: "If you ask me if I have students with drug problems, the answer is yes. But if you ask me if I have a school problem, the answer is no.

"Mind you we are only talking of very, very small numbers, and I emphasise the number of students involved during the past few years has declined remarkably."

The Headmistress at King George V School, Miss Angela Smith, said there is no drug problem in her school: "At least, I haven't heard of any since I became principal last year."

She said she would appreciate being informed if anyone knows of any students from her school using drugs.

The Principal of the German-Swiss International School. Mr Joachim Tiemann; said there is no problem in his school because he has very few upper classes.

"As far as our pupils are concerned, I don't think it's happening either inside or outside the school. Judging by the attitude of our active students, there is nothing happening--although I must admit I could be wrong on this assumption."

Island School's Principal, Mr C. J. Driver, said that over the years drugs have been a relatively minor problem and the school has kept a very close watch on it.

It is well known that drug abuse among Chinese students attending other secondary schools is almost nonexistent.

Says one educationist: "Basically, the Chinese are conservative and come from close-knit homes. They are conscientious and all they strive for are good grades and passing examinations."

He believes the only indiscretion a Chinese student would commit would be to smoke cigarettes. But the scourge among Chinese students is their involvement with triad elements.

I asked Supt Williamson whether there is a drug problem among local students. He stressed he would not want to say the problem is wide-spread. "We are talking of a minority."

He said to examine the question properly, it is necessary to consider Chinese and expatriate young people separately.

"Our impression about Chinese students is that they are generally very hard-working. They may take a few pills to keep going and may be different from the drop-out type which may be involved with drugs.

"But then, when you look at the other group--which is a minority--they can be compared directly with their counterparts in North America or Europe.

"And concerning them, we think the situation here is certainly no worse and probably better than with their counterparts."

Why is it an expatriate problem?

Sociologists believe that taking drugs in the US and Europe is a way of life.

Supt Williamson says: "Marijuana, for instance, is readily available in North America socially, but it is not here. So this is the first problem the expatriate youngster has to cope with: the difference in outlook. It also applies to children coming here from Europe."

What drives a student to take drugs?

The causes are numerous.

Sociologists think the adolescent is searching for an identity, or looking for breathing space and an escape route.

Says one: "It may be that the father is never around and the mother is so depressed she hits the bottle, leaving the child to do what he wants."

Social pressures, homework and the parents' desire for good academic results do not help either--nor does frequent socialising by parents, leaving the children to hold their own pop-type functions.

Tantalising television commercials are another--as are press advertisements.

Supt Williamson thinks it could be due to the social acceptance of marijuana in their own country, or pressure from someone in the group who says it is good to smoke drugs.

It could also be a personality inadequacy on the part of the student who, in some instances, is pressured into it without realising it; in other cases, he may just not be strong enough to consider the outcome of involvement in drug addiction.

What measures are the police taking to combat drug abuse among students?

Supt Williamson says that to answer the question, one has to first find out what limited drug abuse there is among students. "We can probably tie that down to three groups:

"We think heroin abuse is very, very limited. I don't think there has been wide-spread heroin addiction among students. Most of our efforts are directed at the syndicates bringing the stuff in.

"The second group is those who take pills, the stimulants and the depressors. But there are many other pills or other pharmaceutical products which from time to time may be popular.

"The third category is marijuana. We have established the use of this involves those who are financially well off. It is not restricted to either Chinese or the European children, although it has been popular among the non-Chinese groups--the expatriates, which also includes some of the Anglo and Westernised Chinese."

The consensus is that drug addiction among students is more a community problem than school problem.

Supt Williamson says: "It's certainly a community problem in that any drug which is abused by young people is undesirable.

"I think it's everybody's responsibility to ensure you don't have people dependent on drugs. That includes smoking tobacco, smoking marijuana and drinking alcohol. These are all dependents."

How do students get their supplies of drugs?

"We have taken action against some doctors who indiscriminately supply drugs. We have now arrested three, but due to difficult prosecution problems, only one has been charged."

(The man was recently acquitted on a charge of trafficking, although he was fined for improperly storing drugs.)

(The three who are registered practitioners have been referred to the medical council for internal disciplinary action.)

Another source is the chemist's shop. Having access to pharmaceutical products and unregistered doctors is another. Connections with an underground agent is yet another.

What role can school and parents play in combating this menace?

Says one educationist: "In a situation like this, you have to have a strong enough personality to say 'no'--which often is going to be a very difficult thing to do because the social pressure at that moment will be for doing it.

"The parents and the school have to educate the children to have enough strength, and strong enough values at that moment of temptation. They have to educate the individual to understand the pressure in groups and so on."

Says another: "Commercials on TV certainly do not help the problem, because through this commercial world we've been given the message a dozen times that 'success in America' for instance comes through smoking certain cigarettes. Or that you will be a social success if you raise your beer in a dramatic way.

"All these influences continue to defeat the children because they see this as the road to success, the road to happiness. For instance, a person might say he wants to mature, so he asks how an adult behaves.

"It is therefore important for parents to be aware of it, to pay special notice when a child suddenly begins to behave strangely, unnaturally and does things that are not routine. This suggests a new twist, a new pattern."

In one school for instance, the question of drug abuse by pupils is discussed openly in class.

"As a school, we try to stay aware how effective the school is. If they need us to help them give up the habit, we gladly do so."

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

H.K. NARCOTICS BUREAU SUPERINTENDENT WILLIAMSON WARNS AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 18 Jun 79 p 2

[Text]

● TEXT of a speech by Superintendent Dick Williamson of the Royal Hong Kong Police Narcotics Bureau to Hongkong Island South Rotary Club on June 7.

THANK you for inviting me along to speak on the question of drug abuse today, and for the opportunity to explain how the problem of this abuse has developed in Hongkong.

But before I do so, perhaps I can briefly describe the types of drugs most commonly abused not only here, but elsewhere in the world.

We can divide drugs into five main categories. They are:

Narcotics: As far as we are concerned in Hongkong when we speak of narcotics we are talking of the opiates; that is drugs which come from the poppy. This may be opium, morphine or heroin. I think we can also include synthetic equivalents such as methadone, a drug used to treat addicts suffering from withdrawal symptoms.

Stimulants: We have no major problem in Hongkong regarding the abuse of stimulants, the best known probably being amphetamines or speed.

The Japanese have a major problem with the abuse of amphetamines which is something like our heroin problem. We are aware that amphetamines are trafficked through Hongkong on their

way to the Japanese market, and that huge profits are made, a kilo of methamphetamine retailing in Japan for up to \$13 million.

Depressants: Again we have no problem regarding the widespread use of depressants in Hongkong, these drugs being used to depress the central nervous system. As you may well be aware, alcohol which we all have in some degree or other is itself a depressant drug.

Hallucinogens: The most widely known hallucinogen is probably LSD, although this is now out of favour with American and European users who now take the drug "Angel Dust" which is called PCP.

The problem with LSD is one of "flashbacks." The user who has had a bad trip on LSD may, even two or three years after having stopped taking LSD, suddenly and for no apparent reason again have a bad trip.

There have been some tragic results to users, their families and people close to them as a result of these sudden and unexpected flashbacks.

Marijuana: This is probably the most controversial drug at this time, it having been discriminated in some states in America, and being used fairly widely in both North America and Europe where it is to a great extent tolerated. In Hongkong marijuana is by law classified as a dangerous drug.

You will have heard the expression "hard" and "soft" used when people are talking about drugs. This we totally reject. We have represented here in Hongkong the pharmaceutical industry, spending millions of dollars in research to minimise the undesirable side effects of the drugs which they produce. These drugs are marketed for the industry throughout chemist shops and other outlets for the healing, prevention of suffering, and general good of the public.

However, if a person is intent on abusing drugs then no matter how much money is spent on the research and development of the drug, then it can be abused. This is usually by overdose or taking it together with alcohol or with other drugs.

It is often not fully understood that such abuse of pharmaceutical products readily available to us could be very dangerous indeed. More so in fact than heroin or other so-called "hard" drugs, and in some cases can cause permanent damage to the abuser.

We therefore don't use the word "soft" to cover these drugs as this word implies that they are less harmful than other drugs. I therefore suggest that a proper description of drugs would be, narcotic drugs, synthetic drugs and cannabis.

So much then for a general description of the drugs of abuse.

What then of Hongkong? Which of these drugs is our problem?

The answer is, without doubt, heroin.

We have two types of heroin, No 3 Brown Sugar and No 4 or White Powder heroin.

In Hongkong the term 'bak fen,' which means white powder in Chinese, is colloquially used to mean both No 3 and No 4 heroin. No 3 heroin has now in Hongkong an average purity of about 25 per cent although in the past years it has been as high as 35 to 40 per cent.

No 4 heroin, which is not used in Hongkong, and it is normally injected rather than smoked, has a very high purity well over 90 per cent. It may be of interest to note that addicts in North America are buying heroin on the street with the purity as low as two to three per cent and rarely averaging more than five per cent.

Heroin is made by taking the sap from the poppy plant, collecting it. And this substance is then called raw opium and by a simple cooking process this is made into prepared opium which can be smoked.

Another relatively simple process then converts the prepared opium into morphine. Heroin is made by mixing morphine, this usually in the form of 999 blocks about the size of house brick, with a chemical called acetic anhydride more commonly known as AA.

The various stages of purification are both a lengthy and very smelly process, the chemists often having to wear respirators, because of the over-powering smell of acid.

Once these processes have been completed we have what we call heroin base and this heroin base can be fairly easily converted into heroin proper, merely by adding easily obtained chemicals and other substance to "cut" the drug.

Heroin was first discovered in 1874 in St Mary's Hospital in London. Very little interest was shown by the medical profession until 1898 when a German firm commercially made the drug,

which is properly called diacetylmorphine hydrochloride, and gave it the trade name "heroin." This unfortunate trade name is now known throughout the world.

Heroin was originally made for the treatment of respiratory ailments, and ironically was considered to be ideal for the treatment of morphine addiction.

By the 1920's the problem of heroin addiction had become apparent in America, Egypt and China, but it was not until the mid-20s that we first saw heroin in the form of heroin pills, which were smoked in a pipe, here in Hongkong.

There was no real heroin abuse in Hongkong between the wars probably because opium, which was fairly widely used, could be legally obtained and smoked.

Our present heroin problem could probably be traced to 1945 with the liberation of Hongkong from the Japanese, for it was at this time that opium was made illegal. At this stage the trend which has followed ever since, that of opium addicts turning to heroin which is more easy to consume, first appeared.

However, the most significant event was in 1949 with the change of government in China, for at this time together with many other industries and trades the Shanghai chemists who were experts of heroin production brought their industries to Hongkong.

Also fleeing to Hongkong were various other people who had an interest in drugs either as addicts or as dealers who were treated effectively, though harshly, by the new Chinese Government.

Over the next 10 to 15 years we saw a gradual change in the organisation of the drug trade by the newly formed Chiu Chow drug syndicates. By the early 1970s Hongkong had about half a dozen large well-structured, cohesive and secure syndicates. These syndicates imported huge consignments of drug into the Colony from the Golden Triangle area.

The Golden Triangle is the area bordering Burma, Thailand and Laos where an estimated 700 tons of opium

is grown. Nearly all of our drugs come from this area, and in the early 70s were imported to Hongkong by Thai trawlers carrying consignments of tons of drugs.

These trawlers would rendezvous in international waters south of Hongkong with Hongkong fishing junks which would then tranship the drugs into the Colony. Intercepting these fishing junks was very difficult indeed as the drugs were often slung beneath the junk and at the approach of a police or customs launch the ropes would be cut and the cache dropped to the seabed to be recovered later.

Other syndicates were responsible for the manufacture, export and distribution of both heroin and opium and the situation was very bad indeed.

It was against this background that the Government decided to attack the drug abuse problem on four broad fronts:—

- Law enforcement
- Publicity and education
- Rehabilitation and treatment
- International co-operation

It had become obvious at this time that no matter how effective any one aspect of the fight against narcotics may be, no one area of activity in isolation from the others could be completely effective.

In my own field, that is the Police Narcotics Bureau, we also changed our approach at this time. The Bureau had originally been formed in 1954 to get the best results possible and while a large number of people had been arrested and drugs seized it was obvious that we were not an effective enough deterrent to the large syndicates.

Therefore in 1973 one of the main changes was the setting up of a syndicate-penetrating unit in the bureau. We entered into a limited number of long-term inquiries where we targetted a number of major personalities in these syndicates, persons who had often hardly ever seen or touched the drug themselves.

We were aware that seizing drugs themselves was not an effective enough way in stopping the activities of these syndicates, for every ton

of drug seized, another ton from the Golden Triangle was waiting to come.

I'm happy to say with some pride that the main objective of the Narcotics Bureau which was set, then in 1973, the penetration and smashing of these major syndicates, has been completely successful and that with the smashing of the Mas Conspiracy in 1977 the last of these few big syndicates had been "brought to book."

It is however essential that we understand that we have not in a few years cured our drug abuse problem — far from it.

Heroin or heroin base continues to be smuggled into Hongkong by small secure groups. It normally comes in through the airport, carried in by couriers a few pounds at a time, although small syndicates do exist who import large quantities up to a 100 pounds per import, and it is these organisers who are the focus of our attention at the moment.

Much work has been done over the past few years to identify the patterns of drug abuse, among which has been a determined attempt to quantify the number of addicts and their drugs of abuse.

Part of this programme is a Central Registry of drug addicts which by the end of last year indicated an early finding that there were at least 28,500 drug users, although it is our belief that the actual number of drug users to date lies somewhere between 35,000 and 50,000.

This "guesstimate" is a considerable improvement of 1973's widely quoted figure in excess of 80,000.

Perhaps I can put today's figures in different terms which may be more readily understood as a major social problem: if we accept the figure of 30,000 as the number of addicts and accept the research which averages the amount of money an addict spends on drugs as being over \$60 per day, then we have a yearly expenditure by drug addicts in excess of \$1.1 billion.

That figure is nearly twice this year's estimated expenditure on the whole police force:

is 10 times greater than the total value of property lost through fire last year; is about 16 times greater than the total value of property lost through crime last year and is \$100 million more than the combined profits of the Hongkong Shanghai Bank Group and Hongkong Land put together.

I'm sure you will agree that even if you could escape the human misery which follows from drug addiction on the scale that we have in Hongkong, the financial implications are astounding.

Now I have spoken about there being an estimated 35,000 to 50,000 addicts in Hongkong. We believe that over 90 per cent of these are heroin addicts, five or six per cent are opium addicts and the remaining few per cent users of synthetic drugs and marijuana.

Of concern to us is the trend away from the traditional method of smoking heroin to that of injecting or "main lining" the drug. An estimated one-third of (heroin) addicts inject and recent statistics suggest that maybe up to two-thirds of these addicts are using hypodermic syringes, a far more economic and effective method of consuming the drug.

The concern however is centred around a very real problem of infection and physical deterioration from the use of infected or dirty injection needles.

Patterns of smoking opium on the other hand have changed little since the inception of Hongkong and the remaining small percentage of opium smokers are generally well established and very secretive in their smoking habits.

This now brings me to today's potential problem. All of the statistics that are available very strongly suggest to us that a mere three per cent of the total number of addicts are under the age of 20.

While this is very heartening news and a most welcome discovery, we have for the past year or so become increasingly concerned as to whether or not this newly formed "vacuum" in the flow of heroin to young people will be filled by some other drugs.

From time to time we have come across cases of both Chinese and non-Chinese young people becoming involved in the use of synthetic drugs and marijuana, but to date there is no clear indication of a growth in such abuse by young people.

Our concern, our deep concern, is the possible emergence of two drugs which are becoming fairly widespread in their abuse in North America — these drugs are cocaine and Angel Dust.

Cocaine we saw for the first time in contemporary history here in Hongkong a few weeks ago, but the use of cocaine is believed to be very limited and mainly among a very small number of non-Chinese youngsters. It is a stimulant white powder which is usually sniffed.

However our real concern, our real fear, is that we may possibly see the use in Hongkong of a horrifying drug known as Angel Dust. This drug, called phencyclidine or PCP, was first made in North America some 15 to 20 years ago and was for use as an anaesthetic.

It became apparent, however, that there were very definite hallucinatory effects following the use of this drug and it is now confined to use as an anaesthetic for veterinary surgery. The effects of this drug have been reported as a very bad "trip" where the abuser apparently loses all physical feeling and there have been gruesome reported incidents of people gouging their eyes out; chopping their hands off without feeling any pain; of a young mother boiling alive her three-month-old baby; of a man walking through an armour-plated glass window and recently in headlines a shooting case where a man opened fire from a caravan in the US killing two women in a crowd and injuring many others. This is PCP or Angel Dust, described in the trade not as an "upper" or a "downer," but as an "inside-outer."

I'm sure you will understand our grave concern that such incidents should not occur here.

This brings me to the last category of drugs which is currently abused in Hongkong and probably one of the

most debated --- I'm referring of course to marijuana.

Marijuana comes from the cannabis plant and contains a substance known as THC, which is in effect a hallucinatory drug. We believe it has been used in Hongkong for a number of years but that its use had been restricted to people generally with money, to spend --- a Thai stik, a basic unit for buying and selling marijuana, costs \$1 in Bangkok and can be sold in Hongkong for anything between \$35 and \$60.

Of significance to us was our assessment that marijuana was generally brought into Hongkong by users for use by themselves and among friends but that until recently there was very limited indication of trafficking in the drug.

I regret to say that within the past 12 months we have seen definite indications of trafficking marijuana and we have accordingly deployed some of our attention towards those who will make profit from importation and sale --- we must however remain cognisant that the vast majority of our drug abusers are addicted to heroin and it is in this direction that our domestic and international emphasis lies.

We are nonetheless determined that we will not see in Hongkong massive seizures of tons of marijuana by organised syndicates that is at present the plague of our law enforcement colleagues in North America.

In conclusion and in considering marijuana trafficking it may be of interest to note that the maximum penalty for such trafficking is a \$5 million fine and life imprisonment, or on summary conviction a fine of half a million dollars and three years' imprisonment, while smoking "grass" can bring a maximum \$10,000 fine and three years' imprisonment.

May I finally end by saying to anyone who is growing a "cannabis" plant on the window ledge at home that the maximum penalty for cultivating cannabis is a fine of \$100,000 and imprisonment for 15 years.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

DRUG ANALYSIS DELAY CRITICIZED IN LEWIS TRIAL

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 15 Jun 79 p 13

[Text]

Government chemists were yesterday criticised for a delay in submitting a report on suspected dangerous drugs seized by police on April 25.

Mr Charles Stansfield made the criticism in South Kowloon Court when his client, a 39-year-old British businessman, Peter Howard Lewis, appeared before Mr Paul Corfe for the third time on a charge of possession of dangerous drugs for the purpose of unlawful trafficking.

Counsel said it was quite incredible for the chemists to take such a long time to submit their report.

He said that although a memo was presented to the court apologising for the delay, no explanation was given.

Lewis first appeared before a court on April 26 when the prosecution applied for an adjournment for three weeks for the chemist report.

On the second occasion, May 17, another four weeks' adjournment was sought by the prosecution.

Mr Stansfield said Lewis had suffered a considerable loss in his business and now, with a further adjournment, he had to cancel a business trip abroad.

This delay not only caused hardship to Lewis but also put the prosecution in a very embarrassing position.

In view of the lack of information and assistance supplied, he asked the court to dismiss the charge.

Detective Inspector W. S. Mutch of the Narcotics Bureau told the court that about 150 exhibits had to be analysed.

He applied to the court for an adjournment until Saturday week.

By then, he said, he hoped to have the chemist report and the necessary papers for the transfer of the case to Kowloon District Court.

Mr Corfe adjourned the case until June 23 and said he did it very reluctantly but had no choice.

Lewis is alleged to have had in his possession, for the purpose of unlawful trafficking, a quantity of dangerous drugs in a flat in Manson Building, Nathan Road, Tsimshatsui.

His bail of \$75,000 cash and two personal sureties of \$50,000 each was extended.

No plea was taken.



Peter Lewis

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

TOP MAN OF DRUG KINGPIN ARRESTED

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 15 Jun 79 p 1

[Article by James Wong]

[Text]

A lieutenant of alleged drug kingpin Ma Sik-chun has been arrested in Bangkok in connection with the smuggling of \$1.5 million worth of heroin to Hongkong.

Cheng Ah-kai (51) was arrested by agents of the Thai Narcotics Suppression Centre and United States Drug Enforcement Agency in a joint operation in the Thai capital last month.

Also arrested were an alleged big time trafficker, Pak Yok-lin, three Hongkong Chinese men, three Taiwanese crewmen of a Panamanian-registered freighter and a Thai of Chinese descent.

Ma Sik-chun fled to Taiwan after jumping bail in Hongkong while he faced drug conspiracy charges.

Reports from Bangkok said Cheng, Pak and three others were arrested on May 21 in a house in the city's suburbs, while the four others were caught as they tried to board the freighter.

They have been initially charged with possessing her-

oin for sale and attempted smuggling.

Police described Cheng as a strongarm man of the alleged Ma syndicate who was involved in arranging fishing junks to collect drugs.

"He was a middleman between the Mas and exporters," one source said.

The source said Cheng was also instrumental in the hijacking on the high seas of a consignment of drugs for the syndicate.

Pak, sources said, is the head of a syndicate operating in Hongkong, Thailand, the United States, Europe and Australia.

He and Cheng were found to have joined forces recently and were kept under surveillance.

Their arrests were made following a tip-off to the Thai authorities. The seized drugs were believed to be destined for Hongkong.

Narcotics Bureau officers are keeping contact with Thai police for more information about Cheng's arrest and the destination of the 34 lbs of No 3 heroin involved.

They have also forwarded details of Cheng's background and involvement in drug trafficking activities to Thai authorities.

Cheng, an unemployed Chiu Chow, and two high-ranking officials of a drug syndicate, allegedly headed

by the Ma brothers, absconded on July 10 last year while awaiting trial for conspiring with multi-millionaire, Ma Sik-chun, to traffic in dangerous drugs.

The two others are Wong Ping-fai (53), rice shop proprietor and his son Wong Muk-ping (29), transport company proprietor.

The trio were among the nine people arrested by Narcotics Bureau officers on July 25, 1977 in a series of raids which resulted in the smashing of Hongkong's largest drug syndicate.

All nine were charged with conspiracy to traffic in dangerous drugs and later committed to stand trial in the High Court two months later.

However, they were all allowed bail pending their appearance in court.

Cheng was put on \$50,000 bail in cash and surety, on condition that he surrender his travel documents and report to the police twice a week.

On July 10, last year, Cheng failed to report to Western Police Station as required and disappeared together with the Wongs.

Police believe the trio fled to Thailand by fishing junk soon after they disappeared as they had extensive contacts in the fishing community.

Information about the trio was immediately circulated throughout the world through Interpol.

Narcotics Bureau officers said last night they are watching the case's development with close interest.

They said that even if Cheng is acquitted of the charges, there is a chance that he will be deported back to Hongkong.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

HEROIN TRAFFICKERS JAILED, FOUR ACQUITTED

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 16 Jun 79 p 7

[Text]

After Judge Bewley had sentenced a 27-year-old man to prison for drug trafficking in Victoria District Court yesterday, his mother pleaded: "Don't send my son to jail. He is a very nice boy."

The judge replied that her son should not have got mixed up in drug trafficking.

He sentenced Lui Chee-ping, who had a clear record, to 2½ years for possession of heroin for unlawful trafficking.

A 22-year-old dance hostess, Lim Yuet-kam, was sentenced to prison for two years on the same charge.

Both defendants were found in a flat at 7 Cleveland Street, Causeway Bay, in which over 14 grams of heroin with a street value of \$40,000 were also found.

A small quantity of the drug was found in the pocket of a jacket which Lui admitted was his.

Lui told the court that he had gone to the flat on January 8 intending to play an all-night game of mahjong but could not find anyone to take part.

He said he had no idea how the heroin got into his jacket pocket.

Police said that during the raid Lui admitted that the keys which unlocked the drawer in which the heroin was found were his, but he denied this in court.

However, his bank book was found in the drawer with the drugs, and the judge said this corroborated police evidence.

The judge said that Lui's evidence was very unsatisfactory and he did not believe it.

He was perfectly satisfied that Lui did not go to the flat to play mahjong.

It was a very long way from his home and it must surely have been easier to find a game nearer home.

The judge said he was satisfied that Lui was in possession of the drugs in his jacket pocket and in the drawer.

Four other defendants were acquitted of drug charges during the trial, and one other, Fung Wai-shing (26), who pleaded guilty to smoking heroin, possession of heroin and possession of apparatus for smoking heroin, will be sentenced on June 21.

Crown counsel Miss Claire-Marie Beeson prosecuted.

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HONG KONG

BRIEFS

SEIZED DRUGS BURNED--Raw opium and morphine worth more than \$56 million on the black market went up in smoke yesterday. The 1,140 pounds of raw opium and 310 pounds of morphine, seized over the past 3 years, were burned at the Kennedy Town incinerator. The chairman of the Action Committee Against Narcotics, Sir Albert Rodrigues, said the destruction of the drugs was in support of the International Narcotics Control Board. The board had appealed to all member governments of the United Nations to stop selling seized drugs because of the over-production, since 1977, of opium for legal purposes. Sir Albert warned that the over-production, if unchecked, could cause a slump in the price paid to opium growers with the consequent danger of diversion to the illicit market. ACAN last month recommended to the Government that the sale of seized drugs should be discontinued and those in stock, as well as those seized in future, should be destroyed as long as the worldwide over-supply persisted, Sir Albert said. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 23 Jun 79 p 1]

ADDICT RECEIVES JAIL SENTENCE--A 26-year-old drug addict, Fung Wai-shing, was sentenced to prison for nine months by Judge Bewley in Victoria District Court yesterday for smoking heroin, possession of heroin and apparatus for smoking the drug. Fung had pleaded guilty to the charges. The judge said he had intended to send Fung to a drug addition rehabilitation centre and had asked for reports from the centre. He found he was not able to do this because Fung had a conviction for manslaughter for which he had served a term of imprisonment. He was one of six men and one woman who were charged after they were found in a Wanchai flat which also contained heroin worth 40,000. The others pleaded not guilty to possession of drugs for unlawful trafficking. Four were acquitted. One man, Lui Chee-ping (27), was convicted and sentenced to prison for 2-1/2 years while the woman, Lim Yuet-kam (22), was sentenced to 2 years. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 22 Jun 79 p 11]

TRANSPORT WORKER JAILED--A 23-year-old transport worker, Lo Kwong-hing, was sentenced to prison for 3-1/2 years by Judge Jones in Victoria District Court yesterday for possession of \$70,000 worth of heroin for unlawful trafficking. Pang King (24), a broker, and Li Pak-wai (19), a garment worker, were convicted on the same charge and sentence on them was deferred until July 6. The judge acquitted a 23-year-old dance hostess, Chan Fuk-har, of the same charge. Evidence was given that the three men and the woman

were arrested on November 24 in a flat in a building at Whampoa Estate, Kowloon. When police raided the flat three bags were thrown from a window but two policemen on duty outside caught them. The bags were found to contain a total of 145.7 grams of heroin. The judge said he had no doubt that the bags were thrown from the window by the three men accused when the police entered the premises. He added there was no evidence connecting the young woman with the drugs and he would give her the benefit of the doubt. Crown counsel Miss Diane Crebbin prosecuted. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 23 Jun 79 p 7]

EX-ADDICTS REHABILITATION SERVICES ENCOURAGED--After-care rehabilitation services play an important role in anti-narcotics programmes, the Director of Social Welfare, Mr Thomas Lee, said yesterday. This is because ex-addicts have a tendency to relapse into drug dependence when they fail to solve their problems. Addressing the annual general meeting of the Caritas Lok Heep Club yesterday, Mr Lee said care for ex-addicts coming out from treatment centres is most challenging for social workers. "What they (the ex-addicts) need is a secure job, temporary financial help and, most important of all, the understanding of their family and the acceptance of the community. It is important that social workers, by positive means through case examples, prove to the ex-addicts that they can very well change from being a liability of society into a contributing citizen." And he praised the club for its outstanding work in this respect. He pointed out that drug addiction is mainly a social problem and cannot be solved simply by medical or legal means. At the meeting, Mr Lee also presented pins to members of the club whom he described as "good examples in abstaining from the temptation of drugs after treatment." [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 24 Jun 79 p 6]

LEWIS TRIAL DRUG REPORT--After almost eight weeks a Government Chemist's report on a quantity of dangerous drugs allegedly seized in a flat rented by a British businessman, was submitted to Mr Paul Corfe at South Kowloon Court yesterday. Peter Howard Lewis (39) was first charged with possession of dangerous drugs for the purpose of unlawful trafficking before Mr W. M. Chism at South Kowloon Court on April 26. Since then he has made four appearances before Mr Corfe waiting for the report. The report stated that the drugs allegedly found on April 25 in a flat in Manson House, Nathan Road, Tsimshatsui, were: 236.15 grams of cannabis, 37.06 grams of viable cannabis seeds, 31.29 grams of resin containing 0.51 gram of tetrahydrocannabinol, 15.09 grams of prepared opium, 14 tablets containing 3.67 grams of methaqualone, and 16 gelatine squares containing one milligram of lysergide. It is further alleged that police also found 0.08 gram of a mixture containing 0.02 gram of salts of esters of morphine and 6.63 grams of a mixture containing 2.1 grams of cocaine hydrochloride in the same place on the same day. Detective Inspector W. S. Mutch of the Narcotics Bureau applied for the case to be transferred to Kowloon District Court. Mr Corfe granted the transfer and fixed July 3 for a plea to be taken there. Lewis' bail of \$75,000 cash and two sureties of \$50,000 each were extended. Mr. Charles Stansfield appeared for the defendant. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 24 Jun 79 p 7]

POLICE CRACKDOWN ON VICE--The police offensive against illegal gambling establishments, vice dens and drug divans led to a total of 4,993 raids last month. These operations resulted in the arrest of 1,664 people. A spokesman said gambling raids in the month totalled 1,777 with 1,015 people arrested and more than \$100,000 in stake money seized. On the anti-drug front, 529 people were rounded up in 1,850 raids on premises and search operations in the streets. The amount of drugs seized was 392 grams of prepared opium, 3.5 kilograms of heroin, 25 grams of morphine and 507 grams of cannabis. In the crackdown on vice establishments, 1,366 raids were carried out with 120 people arrested and 588 pornographic publications and 20 pornographic photographs seized. Those arrested were charged with offences such as soliciting for an immoral purpose, living on immoral earnings, operating an unlicensed massage establishment or a brothel, aiding and abetting in the operation of a vice den and offences connected with objectionable publications and pornography. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 25 Jun 79 p 12]

THREE REMANDED IN CUSTODY--Two men and a woman appeared before Mr Paul Chiu at San Po Kong Court yesterday on a charge of possession of dangerous drugs for the purpose of unlawful trafficking. Cheung Shing-yee (35), Cheung Shing-yue (32) and the woman, Chan Bik-chi (27), are alleged to have had in their possession 4.5 pounds of suspected heroin base in an unnumbered hut at Tung Sam Yuen Village, Shatin Path Road, on Wednesday. No plea was taken and defendants were remanded in jail custody until Monday. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 15 Jun 79 p 14]

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INDONESIA

NINE KILOGRAMS OF OPIUM SEIZED IN SOUTH SULAWESI

First Arrest for Opium Smuggling

Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 4 Apr 79 p 1

[Excerpts] A drug seller, MT, in Majene Regency (South Sulawesi), 302 kilometers from Ujungpandang, who had 6 kilograms of opium smuggled in and ready to be distributed, was foiled recently by authorities in charge of fighting against smuggling, the KANWIL IX [Regional Office] of the Customs Directorate General in cooperation with KODAK XVIII [Police District Command], South Sulawesi region.

Tests made of the opium, which was believed to come from Tawao, by the Ujungpandang Chemical Research Office showed it was 90 percent pure.

Agus Sutardjo, chief of the P2 [fighting against smuggling] Sector, KANWIL IX, Customs Directorate General in Ujungpandang, indicated that this was the first time smuggled opium had been seized in his region.

He had obtained advance information about the smuggling and distribution of opium in Majene Recency and immediately had ordered Usman Ilyas, chief of the Information Service of the P2 Sector, to spread a dragnet.

The dragnet operation led by Usman Ilyas in cooperation with the KODAK XVIII of the South Sulawesi region was divided into two teams. The first team's members disguised themselves as traders and businessmen and the second team lay in ambush.

This combined effort by the neatly organized teams succeeded in capturing MT on 25 March 1979 at 3 am (dawn). Earlier the first team had succeeded in engaging MT in a deal to buy, and the second team then attacked and seized the 6 kilograms of opium.

Suspect Incriminates Others

Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 10 Apr 79 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] A 3-kilogram packet containing 100 percent pure opium ready to be traded by HS was seized in another coup by the 1826 KORES [Resort Command] of POLMAS [Polewali-Mamasa] (South Sulawesi) in a raid in the Campalagiang Subdistrict, POLMAS Regency, last week.

It seems HS also helped in the capture of D, a comrade among the narcotics distributors. The raid of KODAK XVIII of the South Sulawesi region, together with the 1826 KORES of POLMAS and 1827 KORES of Majene, which operate in the area intended for distribution of the smuggled opium, was a continuation of operations conducted on the basis of MT's confession. He is being held by KODAK XVIII.

According to MT, from whom 6 kilograms of opium were seized at the end of last month in Majene, 15 more kilograms held by his pal S are ready to be distributed in Majene and POLMAS Regencies.

According to KADISPENDAK XVIII [chief of the Police Information Service], further investigation reveals that these narcotics were received from men named N and A, both of whom come from Campalagiang, POLMAS, 447 kilometers from Ujungpandang, and who are now domiciled in Surabaya.

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JAPAN

TRUCK DRIVER BOOKED FOR DRUG SMUGGLING

Tokyo MAINICHI DAILY NEWS in English 24 Jun 79 p 12

[Text]

Police in Osaka turned over to the public prosecutors office Saturday a former truck driver on charges of smuggling 25 kilograms of stimulant drugs, worth 7,500 million yen in street value, since 1974 as a carrier for an international drug ring.

They also put on the international wanted list of Interpol a 27- or 28-year-old Chinese art dealer called "Li" in Hong Kong under suspicion of being engaged in exporting such drugs.

Hiroki Inoue, 37, of Asahi-ku, Osaka, who was arrested in Osaka May 7 on charges of violating the Stimulant Drug Control Law, went to Manila in 1972 and became a drug carrier, police said. He smuggled a total of 4 kilograms of amphetamines into Japan hidden in buffalo horns in 1974-1975, they said.

Inoue moved to Hong Kong at

Li's invitation in 1975 after Philippines police cracked down on drugs, police said. He smuggled into Japan another 4 kilograms of stimulant by May 1977, they said.

Then he was promoted from carrier to resident representative in Japan by the drug ring and returned to this country, police said. He received 3.7 kilograms of the drugs from carriers in accordance with instructions by international telephone from the organization since September last year, they added.

Inoue sold the smuggled drugs to Yamaguchi-gumi and Sumiyoshi-rengo gangsters at 9 million yen to 11 million yen per kilogram, according to police.

Inoue reportedly confessed to police that he smuggled into Japan 13 kilograms more of stimulant drugs.

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MALAYSIA

NARCOTICS SEIZURES, ARRESTS, TRIALS REPORTED

Drugs Burned

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Apr 79 p 7

[Text]

THE senior registrar of subordinate courts, Haji Zainal Othman, and Central Narcotics Bureau Deputy Director Hashim Long (right) setting fire to thousands of dollars worth of drugs outside the Sessions Court complex in Jalan Duta yesterday.

The court had ordered the destruction of the drugs consisting of heroin, ganja and MX pills that were seized over the past few years.

The drugs destroyed in the bonfire included more than 17lb of heroin, 21lb of ganja, 200 ganja plants, 400 MX

capsules and 3,758 MX pills.

The burning of the drugs, which would have been worth several thousands on the black market, was witnessed by court staff, senior ONB officers and some members of the public.

Encik Hashim said later that the drugs were referred to the Pharmacy Department for analysis and those found useful were retained.

The rest was destroyed, he added.

Also destroyed in the bonfire were opium smoking utensils, and other equipment seized by ONB officers in their raids.

Sabah Arrest

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Apr 79 p 8

[Text]

KOTA KINABALU, Tues. — Police have detained a suspected drug trafficker from Johore who was trying to deliver 640 grammes of heroin to local pushers.

The man, in his late 30's, had brought the heroin from Peninsular Malaysia for distribution here.

Sabah Commissioner of Police Haji Mohamed Shahir Abdul Majid told

a Press conference here today that this was the biggest drug haul ever made in the State.

The arrest, made recently, was the result of two months of police action. Information was received in February that certain traffickers were attempting to smuggle drugs into Sabah.

He said about 228 grammes of the heroin were found to be of pure quality. — Bernama.

Sarawak Addicts

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Apr 79 p 18

[Excerpts

KUCHING, Thurs. — Sarawak has about 800 known drug addicts, a spokesman of the State Branch of the National Association Against Drug Abuse (Pemadam) said today.

However, there could be more than 2,000 others involved in drug abuse, he said in a lecture on anti-drug abuse here.

The spokesman said drug addicts were being treated at the temporary rehabilitation centre at the mental hospital at the 77th mile, Serian road.

Officials Supply Drugs

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 27 Apr 79 p 7

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Umno's special officer against drug abuse, Haji Radin Supathan, today accused certain uniformed officials of being involved in supplying drugs to addicts in rehabilitation centres.

He urged the Government to investigate and take stern action against those involved.

He said that the matter was brought to his attention recently and he would be making a thorough investigation.

He said the facts he had gathered so far showed the syndicates

operate in a few rehabilitation centres and certain officials were involved.

"The Government had set up these centres to cure the drug addicts and here we have officers entrusted with helping to cure them, encouraging them instead to continue with their vice," he said.

"I was also given to understand that at one centre, the addicts publicly admitted they had received their supply from uniformed officers."

"If it's true, it shows that drug abuse has come to a chronic stage in this country."

"I have also heard of cases where the members of these syndicates used violence to get the addicts under their wing," he said.

Trafficking Charge

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 1 May 79 p 7

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Mr Justice Mohamed Azmi today reserved judgment on a drug trafficking case involving a rice dealer and his third wife. He will deliver judgment on Wednesday.

Ng Beh Kiah, 48, and Teh Say Hoey, 35, are jointly charged with trafficking in 1.838 kg of morphine, 7.882 kg of prepared opium and 17.781 kg of raw opium at house No. 8, Jalan Midah, Cheras, at about 10.30 a.m. on Jan. 12.

Earlier, Mr Karpal Singh, defending Teh, a seamstress and owner of

a hair dressing salon, submitted that a person named Ah Kheng was a sub-tenant and the occupier of the room where the drugs were found.

He said on the balance of probabilities, Teh had proved that she had no knowledge of the drugs.

Teh, in her defence on Friday, said she had rented the room to Ah Kheng for \$40.

Denial

She also said the drugs found in the room belonged to him.

Ng's counsel, Mr R. Rajasingam, in his submissions on Friday urged the court to amend the charge against his client to one of possession of drugs.

He said there was not an iota of evidence to show that Ng was a resident of the house except that he had kept a woman there.

Ng, in his defence on Friday, said he told the police that the drugs did not belong to him when he was questioned regarding it after the raid.

He said he maintained his answer even when he was threatened to admit ownership.

DPP Muhammad Shafee Muhammad Abdullah today said Ng's defence was one of mere denial.

On Teh's defence, the DPP said she was not a reliable witness as several material discrepancies were made in her testimony.

Encik Shafee said the prosecution had proved its case against Ng and Teh and urged the court to find them guilty as charged.

Pushers in Rehabilitation Centers

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 1 May 79 p 8

[Excerpts]

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Drug rehabilitation centres have become the haunt of drug traffickers.

According to Welfare Services Minister Datin Paduka Hajjah Aliah Ghani, addicts-cum-pushers enter the centres by pretending to seek rehabilitation. When they are in, they push drugs to the patients.

The Minister said this during a visit to the Federal Territory Pemadam Day Care Centre in Jalan Clifford here today.

She also said that the number of people abusing drugs was increasing and that more women were now involved.

She also said that the prices of morphine and heroin had increased tremendously. As a result, addicts were turning to a substitute called Rochis, which is actually a tranquilliser.

But even the price of this drug has gone up — from 80 cents a pill to \$1.20.

Heroin Seized

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 6 May 79 p 13

[Text]

ALOR STAR, Sat. — Police arrested two suspected drug traffickers in an ambush and seized about 1.25 pounds of heroin from one of them.

Kedah and Perlis CID chief ACP P.N. Mut'iah told reporters today that as a result of a tip-off a police party led by Inap Radin Roslan spotted two men, one of whom was carrying a plastic bag, walking together.

The police detained the men, who were in their early 20s, and the drug was found inside the bag.

In another seizure in Changloun yesterday, members of the special anti-smuggling unit seized a plastic bottle containing heroin and some ganja from a car which had just arrived from Thailand.

The driver and a passenger were detained.

Arrests in Development Projects

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 7 May 79 p 9

[Excerpts]

JOHORE BARU, Sun.
A FELDA officer was among 30 people arrested for drug offences in the five big schemes near Kulai in recent months.

Sources said today that while most of the others arrested were either settlers or their sons, one was an outsider who supplied the drugs.

According to the deputy head of the FELDA unit in the Sungai Sayong scheme, Encik Mohamed Ginda, the supplier employed others in the scheme to distribute the drugs.

The drug problem in the five schemes had become so serious that, according to Encik Mohamed, 80 per cent of the youths were hooked in Sungai Sayong alone.

The five schemes are Taib Andak, Bukit Besar, Sungai Sayong, Pakir Raja and Bukit Rambai.

Rela units in Sungai Sayong and Bukit Besar have launched a campaign against the drug problem in the two schemes.

However, their work is being made difficult by threats from drug addicts.

Heroin Possession

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 7 May 79 p 18

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Taxi driver Tan Boh Ooi, 34, was bound over in \$3,000 for two years by the Sessions Court here today when he pleaded guilty to a charge of having 14.87 gm. of heroin. He admitted having the heroin at Jalan Masjid India on Sept. 17, 1977. His counsel, Mr. P.G. Megaran, produced a letter from a doctor to certify that Tan was an addict and was undergoing treatment.

Guilty Plea

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 9 May 79 p 9

[Text]

JOHORE BARU, Sun. — Mahinder Singh s/o Gurdial Singh, 18, pleaded guilty to possessing 11 straw tubes of heroin at Bukit Chagar on Feb. 20. His lawyer, Mr. Parajit Singh, asked that he be sent to the drug rehabilitation centre as he was a drug dependent according to the testimony of welfare officer D.N. Damodran. A term of imprisonment would only do the accused more harm than good, he said. However, Inspector Abdullah Hassan, prosecuting, said that under Section 23B of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, an accused's drug dependence could be certified only by a medical officer. Senior Sessions Court president Ee Chin Seng, sitting as magistrate, deferred sentence until May 18 to allow Mahinder Singh to be examined by a medical officer.

Heroin Sentence

Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 6 May 79 p 3

[Text]

JOHORE BARU, Sat. — A 19-year-old youth was sentenced to eight months' jail by the magistrate's court here today when he pleaded guilty to possession of heroin. Salleh Kunji Almi of Jalan Datuk Dalam here admitted to having 0.05 gm. of heroin in an unnumbered house in Jalan Datuk Dalam on Feb. 7. Inspector Abdullah Hassan, prosecuting, told the court that Salleh was arrested by Inspector Harbhajan Singh who found the drug in a match box in Salleh's right hand. Magistrate Wan Shariff Mohamed ordered that the sentence run from the date of arrest.

Morphine Possession

Kuala Belait BORNEO BULLETIN in English 19 May 79 p 20

[Excerpt]

KUCHING. — An unemployed youth who claimed he was a drug addict pleaded guilty in court recently to possessing 0.05 grammes of morphine in a Kuching Municipal Council flat on June 19 last year. But magistrate Mr Chan Kay Poh deferred sentence until June 30 to enable Yeo Eng Pheng, 18, of Ban Hock Road, Kuching, to be examined by a government doctor to see if he is dependant on drugs.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

DOG UNITS PLANNED FOR SARAWAK, SABAH AIRPORTS

Kuala Belait BORNEO BULLETIN in English 5 May 79 p 14

[Excerpt]

KUCHING. — A dog unit for sniffing out drugs is to be based at Kuching Airport, but just when it will be operating remains uncertain.

Although Dato Dr Neo Yee Pan, the federal Deputy Finance Minister, has given fuller details of the proposal, he also says it may be some months before the unit is operational.

The Sarawak government has given the Customs Department two acres of land near the airport to use for building offices-quarters for the unit, disclosed the minister on a visit here last week.

"We want to set up the unit as soon as possible — but this depends

very much of the availability of dogs, the training of men to handle the dogs, and the necessary buildings," he added.

Five officers are at present undergoing training in the US, from where the department is also to obtain four dogs.

Apart from Kuching, the minister said the plan is also to establish a dog unit at Kota Kinabalu Airport.

Indeed, Dato Neo says the intention is to have them at all exit points from Malaysia — because, currently, there is only the one central unit in Kuala Lumpur.

An earlier announcement of Kuching getting the dog unit came in February from Datuk Abdul Rahim, Malaysia's Director-General of Customs.

He also said that drug syndicates are now making use of East Malaysian airports — notably Kuching and Kota Kinabalu — as a new route to shift supplies from the Golden Triangle to other countries, like Hongkong.

He said the switch had come because the traffickers found difficulty in beating the detection system in Peninsular Malaysia.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

SOLDIERS FOUND GUILTY OF HEROIN POSSESSION

Kuala Belait BORNEO BULLETIN in English 5 May 79 p 32

[Text]

KU'CHING. — A second Malaysian Army private has been jailed and sentenced to six strokes of the rotan for a serious drug offence.

The private, Abdul Rahim bin Ahmad, 26, of the 3rd Malaysian Infantry Brigade at Mile 8 Penrissen Camp, pleaded guilty to having control or custody of 72.1 grammes of heroin on November 18 last year.

A senior magistrate, Madam Agnes Wong, jailed him for three years and ordered the whipping. The prison sentence will start when Rahim completes six months' imprisonment for wrongfully converting a motor-cycle last year.

Rahim had originally been charged with possessing the drug and had pleaded not guilty but amended his plea to the District Court when the prosecution reduced the charge to one of custody and control.

Rahim is the second private to be ordered to be whipped in connection with the same drug of-

fence.

On April 2, Tan Kiak Chang, 27, pleaded guilty and was jailed for five years for possessing 72.1 grammes of heroin under Section 12 (2) of the 1952 Dangerous Drugs Ordinance. The ordinance was extended to Sarawak and Sabah in June last year.

Tan was also sentenced to six strokes of the rotan. He has not appealed.

In the District Court last week a military Special Branch investigation officer, Sergeant Zainal Abidin bin Ahmad, 32, said at 1 pm on November 18 last year he was told Rahim would act as a middle man to dispose of some drugs. He was told Rahim would be using a motor-cycle and he was given the registration number.

Later he went to the infantry brigade's main guard room and told the Captain of the Guard, Corporal Khalid bin Mat, to keep watch for the motor-cycle and to instruct his men to do the same.

When the motor-cycle was finally stopped by another corporal, Rahim was riding it and Tan was his pillion passenger. Tan was holding a large brown envelope and was asked what was in it.

Tan said he did not know. When the envelope was unfolded it showed a serial number, S0030 and the words "Urusan Seri Paduka Baginda."

Sgt Zainal said he took several plastic packets from the envelope. They contained a greyish-white substance in a coarse form. Tan told him the packets belonged to a friend.

Both soldiers denied knowledge of the packets and Rahim kept saying: "I do not know anything about this."

Sgt Zainal said while they were waiting for a military vehicle Rahim asked him to throw away 10 of the packets and only pass two on to the police.

Tan later told police he had imported the drugs from Penang and Rahim was to be the middle man, disposing of the drugs.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

WITNESS IN HEROIN TRIAL SAYS HE SOUGHT DEA REWARD

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 28 May 79 p 17

[Text]

KLANG, Sun. — Company manager Mr Christof Gerard Marx, 59, was given travel expenses and return air tickets under a plan by a Malaysian drug syndicate to smuggle 15 lb of heroin to Amsterdam, the Sessions Court here was told yesterday.

The court was also told by Mr Marx, manager of an Italian company in Bangkok, that Teoh Kim Bee had asked him some time in August 1977 to deposit a suitcase containing the heroin in a locker at Amsterdam airport.

But he (Marx) did not go through with the plan.

He also said that he infiltrated Teoh's syndicate in order to get a reward from the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

He was testifying at the joint trial of Teoh, 33, Ibrahim Ahmad, 38, and Mokhtar Minin, 39, who are charged with drug trafficking.

Teoh is alleged to have packed 676 gm of heroin at a house at the 9 1/4-mile Jalan Raya Gua Chempedak in Kedah, on behalf of Ibrahim, around Aug. 4, 1977.

Ibrahim is alleged to have trafficked in the drugs at Hotel Jayapuri at about 2.45 p.m. on Aug. 9, the same year.

Mokhtar is alleged to have bought two return air tickets, preparatory to trafficking in the drugs, for himself and another man to send the heroin from Kuala Lumpur to Amsterdam.

Earlier, Mr Marx said that he first met Mokhtar at the Nora Hotel in Haadyai in November 1976, and they exchanged addresses.

Around May the following year, Mokhtar introduced Ibrahim to him at a meeting at the South-East Asia Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, he said.

He said that at this meeting Mokhtar stated that his business was not doing very well.

"I said to him that there was a chance to make money as he (Mokhtar) knew a lot of rice smugglers in Kedah and Perlis and certainly among them are some drug smugglers.

"I also told him that I have a friend in the police and that this policeman would pretend to be the courier to carry drugs from this country to Europe," he said.

Mr Marx said the next day he met United States narcotic agent William Joseph Feaser and a Mr Michael Powers at the United States Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

At that meeting he told them that Mokhtar and Ibrahim were willing to co-operate with the DEA with regard to a case of drug trafficking from Malaysia to Europe.

He later introduced Mokhtar and Ibrahim to Mr Feaser.

Mr Marx said that some time before July that year, Mokhtar told him that he had found a drug supplier who wanted to send 15 lb of heroin to Amsterdam and "asked me what sort of a reward he could get".

Mr Marx replied that from his experience the reward would be US\$1,000 per kilogram and this could be

very much higher if a substantial drug ring was smashed.

He said that later during a journey to Alor Star in Ibrahim's car, Mokhtar told him that the reward was very small and suggested to him that if he (Marx) could be the courier they could make more money, around US\$20,000 to US\$40,000 a kg.

In Alor Star, Mr Marx said he was introduced to Teoh and another Chinese man in Ibrahim's office and during this meeting he (Marx) was asked to carry 15 lb of heroin to Amsterdam.

Expenses

He said that Teoh told him that he would get one-third of the share and also air tickets and travel money.

He added that Teoh also asked Ibrahim to take him to a rice mill outside Alor Star where \$1,000 was given to him to cover his expenses during his stay in Malaysia until his departure on Aug. 9.

He also told the court that under the plan he was to meet a young handsome man, who was introduced to him earlier, at the Inter-Continental Hotel coffee house in Amsterdam.

He was then to "release" the key to the locker where the heroin was to have been kept on his arrival at Amsterdam airport.

On Aug. 7, he was told by Mokhtar in his (Marx's) room at Hotel Jayapuri in Petaling Jaya that the suitcase containing the heroin was in Ibrahim's car which was parked outside the hotel.

He said Mokhtar asked him to take the suitcase but he refused.

Two days later, he again refused to take the suitcase when asked to do so by Mokhtar. After that he found that Mokhtar and Ibrahim had been arrested by the police.

The hearing continues.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

THREE DEATH SENTENCES, 32 LIFE SENTENCES FOR TRAFFICKING

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 30 Apr 79 p 7

[Excerpt] **KUALA LUMPUR, Sun.** Three men have been sentenced to death while 32 others are serving life sentences for drug trafficking since 1975, the Director of CID, Datuk Haji Abdul Rahman Ismail, said yesterday.

He said 25 major drug trafficking syndicates had been put out of action over the past three years.

The activities of seven of them were also curbed last year.

Datuk Haji Rahman added that another 123 people have been charged under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance which carries the death penalty or life sentence.

The CID director was speaking at the opening of the new \$425,400 Gombak police station near here yesterday.

Also present were Selangor Chief Police Officer Datuk P. Alagendra and Rawang OCPD R. Nadarajah.

Last year, 6,644 people were found in possession of drugs. Of this, 155 were charged under Section 39 (A) of the new Dangerous Drugs Ordinance which

carries a jail sentence of between three and 14 years and six strokes of the rotan for possession of drugs between five and 100 gm.

Datuk Haji Rahman said statistics had shown that 40.5 per cent of all criminal cases in the country were committed by drug addicts.

There are more than 38,000 known drug addicts in the country although the actual number could be much higher.

He appealed to the drug addicts, who have not sought treatment at clinics, hospitals and rehabilitation centres, to do so before it is too late.

Police have seized 342.41 kg of heroin, enough for 72.6 million doses, 106.03 kg of morphine (8.09 million doses) and 901.28 kg of opium and ganja over the past three years.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

HOUSEWIFE GETS LIFE SENTENCE ON HEROIN CHARGE

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Apr 79 p 20

[Excerpts]

IPOH, Tues. — A 35-year-old housewife was sentenced to life imprisonment by the Sessions Court here today after she was found guilty of trafficking in 100.4 grammes of heroin.

The woman, Yau Kut Tau from Butterworth, broke into tears soon after the sentence was pronounced.

DSP Yeoh told the court that on Dec. 1, 1977, Yau and her husband were on their way to Termeloh in Taiping from Butterworth when they were stopped by a police party in Changkat Jerling.

They were taken to the Taiping police station and on searching the car, police found Yau with a plastic packet containing heroin wrapped in cloths.

Yau's husband Yaw Gim Peng, 42, who was

jointly charged with her, was earlier acquitted and discharged after defence counsel Mr. Karpal Singh submitted that the prosecution had not brought out any evidence against him.

In her defence, Yau said she did not know that the contents in the plastic packet, given to her by a man, had heroin.

"I knew that the contents were in crystal form but I did not know that they were heroin," said Yau Kut Tau during cross-examination.

She said on Dec. 1, 1977, she was in her house in Butterworth when a man named Ah Chui handed her a plastic packet which she was to convey to another man called Ah Huat.

"Ah Chui asked me to give the packet to Ah Huat in Termeloh in Taiping," she said.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

PHYSICIAN GUILTY OF HEROIN POSSESSION

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Apr 79 pp 1, 20

[Excerpts]

IPOH, Tues. — A medical practitioner, Dr. Gurmukh Singh s/o Maginda Singh, 32, was sentenced by the magistrate's court to 18 months' jail after he was found guilty of possession of 0.43 grammes of heroin.

Mr. Marbeck, how-

ever, allowed a stay of execution of the sentence pending an appeal against the sentence by defence counsel Mr. Paramjit Singh.

He allowed bail of \$5,000.

Dr. Gurmukh had pleaded not guilty to possessing the drug at 9.30 p.m. on Dec. 26, 1978 at a house in Jalan Rimba Panjang in Buntong here. Woman Chief Inspector Madam Ko Siew Galk was the prosecuting officer.

Escaped

In his judgment, Mr. Marbeck said the prosecution had to establish beyond reasonable doubt, that the subject matter in the case was heroin weighing 0.43 gms., that the accused was in possession of it and that he was not authorised or deemed to possess it.

He said the chemist report confirmed that the nine tubes seized during a raid at the house contained heroin.

He said at the time of the police raid, the accused was alone in the house, and the door to the hall was closed, excluding other people

from entry.

These facts, and the presence of a number of boxes and bottles of medicines and medical books showed that Dr. Gurmukh was the occupier of the premises.

On the defence claim that the accused had no knowledge whatsoever of the tubes, which he inferred to be the property of one K.P. Karunanithy, who escaped during the raid, Mr. Marbeck said:

First case

"This defence was in effect, 'I was not and could not, for instance, the accused had no knowledge of the nine tubes of heroin and denied possession only because Karunanithy ran away as claimed, he cannot, in my view, claim authorisation in view of Section 88 and Regulation 8.'"

with regard to the authorisation of doctors to have drugs, Mr. Marbeck said: "They are authorised only so far as those drugs are necessary for the practice of their profession," he said.

"Section 88 shifts the essential burden to the accused to show that he is authorised, that is, he is a medical practitioner and that the drug was necessary for the practice or exercise of his profession.

"He adduced no evidence whatsoever to show that on Dec. 26, 1978, the practice or exercise of his profession required or made it necessary for him to have the 0.43 gms. of heroin."

He also ruled that the evidence given by Dr. Gurmukh Singh on the possession of heroin in medicine was "completely irrelevant" for proving that the drug was necessary for his profession.

In asking for a stay of the execution of sentence, Mr. Paramjit Singh said this was the first case of its kind in the legal history of the country where a medical practitioner had to make his defence under the Ordinance.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

AUSTRALIAN'S APPEAL OF HEROIN CONVICTION DISMISSED

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 8 May 79 p 9

[Text] Singapore.--A Malaysian High Court Judge yesterday dismissed an appeal by a 23-year-old Australian against a four-year term with a whipping for heroin possession.

Jeffrey Michael Dooley, of Toukley, New South Wales, was convicted last October on a charge of possessing 59 grams of the drug in Penang's Chinatown last May.

Unless Dooley can provide evidence that he is medically unfit to receive the whipping, he will get six strokes of the rotan, a thick knotted cane used in Malaysian and Singapore jails.

Foreigner who has abused his privileges as a tourist," Superintendent Foong said.

"His conduct and behaviour tend to encourage drug-taking among the local youth."

High Court Judge Mr. Justice Fred Arulananand told Dooley: "No leniency can be shown to foreigners who abuse our hospitality by committing serious drug offences."

Police told the Penang Session Court last October that they followed Dooley and his wife, Angela, who were honeymooning, after receiving a tip-off.

They said Dooley snatched his wife's handbag and fled after police identified themselves to the couple.

Dooley then threw the handbag onto a roof in a bazaar as police caught him.

Dooley claimed in evidence he thought his pursuers had been snatch thieves.

Superintendent Eric Foong, prosecuting, asked the court for a stiff sentence.

"The accused is a for-

CSO: 5300

NEW ZEALAND

DRUGS, CRIME--DIRTY WORK THAT ENDS IN DEATH

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 6 Jun 79 p 2

[Article by Martin O'Connor]

[Text]

CANNABIS, you may be surprised to discover, first became known to New Zealand Police during the Second World War.

According to the co-ordinator of the National Drug Intelligence Bureau (Detective Senior Sergeant Paul Fitzharris), who gave a drug background interview to the "Post" this week some of the first people to use cannabis locally were American soldiers stationed here during the war.

Up until the 1960s cannabis was "really a cult thing", says Mr Fitzharris. In the 1960s drugs built up out of the "flower-power" and love culture of San Francisco — and thus began the emergence of drugs.

The bulk of cannabis used in New Zealand these days is home grown — in all parts of the country.

The bigger lots are being grown in the more remote areas, but seizures are being made by police from back gardens, hot-houses and even inside homes.

Imported

Some growers are using sophisticated methods such as temperature control when they grow the plants in barns and other buildings.

Home-grown cannabis is sold on the street in two main forms: the deal bag, which is a plastic bag and sells for between \$12 and \$30, and the bullet, where the drug is wrapped in tin-foil about the size of a fat cigar and costs between \$12 and \$18.

Price varies depending on where the product is bought, and such things as the supplier.

The better quality cannabis is imported from Thailand.

It arrives by ship, through the airports, and by post. The larger quantities are coming by sea.

Thai Sticks (also known as Buddha Sticks) are, says Mr Fitzharris, typical of the packing and presentation of the drug by the Thai people.

It is basically a bamboo twig about 13cm long with cannabis wrapped around it and tied with cotton. About 200 such "sticks" are compressed and made into packages for importing.

Thai sticks can sell for between \$8 and \$30 each.

Cannabis has two by-products — hashish oil and resin. The hashish resin is compressed resin from the cannabis plant while the oil is really percolated cannabis with other things, such as pure alcohol, added.

The potency is sometimes up to 60 times than that of cannabis leaf material.

Cannabis is known under a variety of names — including grass, New Zealand green, pot, dope, weed, shit, ganja and Indian hemp.

Younger

Mr Fitzharris says that the age range of those people using cannabis is extending — to both younger and older people and through all strata of society.

"Most adolescents are going to come into contact with it at some stage — the trend is for this to be younger," he said.

"As well as being an enforcement problem for us, I see it as being a major health hazard."

Another drug to emerge during the 1960s was LSD — lysergic acid.

"There was a problem with LSD in the 1960s. The problem hasn't gone away but it's very sporadic now," Mr Fitzharris said. LSD began fading from the New Zealand drug-scene from about 1975.

Opium

Heroin, now a major problem, started appearing here in about 1970.

It comes from what is known as the Golden Triangle — the border areas of Thailand, Laos and Burma. It is bought in Bangkok, Malaysia and Singapore and routed directly into New Zealand or through Australia and the Pacific Islands.

In the latter case it generally arrives through Fiji or Noumea.

Heroin is manufactured from opium and arrives in two main forms: a white powder resembling baking soda; or "rocks," small crystals ranging in colour from dark brown to pink.

It sells for between \$90 and \$150 a gram, and when it appears on the streets is in a broken-down form — generally with a glucose additive. The street-sale substance is about 20 per cent heroin.

"Each guy who handles it generally puts in an additive. He doubles the quantity and his money," says Mr Fitzharris.

It is sold in small plastic bags and paper sachets.

Heroin importers tend to be money-motivated, and not generally drug users.

"There is no doubt that they make vast amounts of money. There are people who can talk in terms of millions of dollars."

Some start by acting as couriers and are given substantial funds, others commit other crimes to build up funds.

There are three or four major groups, with networks of up to 20 people, heavily involved in drug importing. The groups have interconnections.

Aware

Many have sophisticated networks. Police know that they have what could loosely be termed "conferences" in New Zealand and Australia.

Many of the people involved would have been unfamiliar with such things as the flow of cash from country to country, but get their expertise from certain professional people.

"...lawyers and accountants who are obviously aware of the source of the money."

Generally speaking, there is a network which gets the heroin from the importer to the user in the street. However, in some instances the importer may sell it on the street.

Heroin is not as accessible by youngsters as cannabis, but that one of the problems is that it is being used by increasingly younger people.

Addicts

"If people could take it and leave it, I'm sure we just wouldn't have such a problem. But a large proportion become addicted. People who get addicted to heroin generally have a poly-drug problem, particularly with barbiturates.

"Their health runs down, they have less resistance to disease and they sometimes overdose on barbiturates. It is uncommon to find a heroin overdose.

"We see it as the heroin that kills them, but it may be something else which finally leads to death."

He assesses the number of heroin addicts in New Zealand as between 1500 and 2000. But this could be growing, fast.

"They live in dirty, filthy conditions. Their only interest in life is where they can get their next shot of heroin. Some of them have to commit crime for money, but for a lot of them the crime is selling drugs."

Mr Fitzharris mentions dud cheques, armed hold-ups, burglaries and car thefts.

Prostitutes

"That's the enforcement trend for today — for those crimes to be committed by drug addicts."

He thinks that the bulk of New Zealand's prostitutes would be drug addicts.

But he adds that most of the "Big" people in the drug world insulate themselves from the drug.

"Most wouldn't carry it themselves. They invariably get other people to do their dirty work."

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

RESTORATION OF DEATH PENALTY FOR DRUG DEALERS SUGGESTED

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 7 Jun 79 p 7

[Text]

RESTORATION of the death penalty for drug dealers was suggested in Parliament last night by the National MP for Wellington Central (Mr Ken Comber).

Speaking during the Address-in-Reply debate, Mr Comber noted that 6000 people were expected to appear in Court on drug charges this year, compared with 3226 last year.

Eleven out of the last 13 armed offenders incidents in Auckland had been drug-related.

New Zealand was being drawn into an Australian-Singapore network of drug dealers, as the case of the two New Zealanders recently murdered in Melbourne showed.

"I have not been an advocate ever of capital punishment," said Mr Comber.

"But I say that when individuals and gangs peddle in drugs and death, knowingly and wittingly, the question of whether their lives should not be forfeit must be asked.

"They cause death. They may invite death.

"Parliament may well be asked to reconsider the death penalty for dealing in drugs, for the peddlers in death."

He quoted former American President Richard Nixon, who said that drug dealers were "the slave traders of our time" and must not be given refuge anywhere.

And quoting from another publication called the "Psychological Political Manual of the Soviet Union," he said communists could create disorder, laziness and worthlessness by making

drugs and sexual liberty available to teenagers.

"If we thoroughly smash up national pride and patriotism, one generation can be sufficient to make a country collapse," the manual said.

"The facts about cannabis are such that there is no cause for a soft line," he added, noting a recent case where "angel dust" had been sprinkled on a marijuana leaf.

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

NEW DRUGS BILL DESIGNED 'TO RECTIFY BLUNDER'

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 11 Jun 79 p 7

[Text]

PA Wellington

The Government's Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill No. 2 was a measure to correct a blunder made by Parliament when legislation had been rushed through the House last year, the Opposition spokesman on Justice, Mr R. W. Prebble (Auckland Central) has said.

The bill, introduced by the Minister of Justice (Mr McLay) and given a first reading on Friday morning, was aimed at correcting serious errors in the Misuse of Drugs Amendment Act, 1978.

In the light of the act it was questionable whether remands of drug offenders by magistrates in the last six months were legal.

The explanatory note prefacing the bill says it is arguable that a magistrate's power to remand offenders in custody has been taken away along with his power to grant bail.

"The amendment makes it clear that only the power to grant bail is excluded," it says.

The bill also clarifies a

provision in last year's amendment which prevents the admission of evidence obtained by the unlawful use of a listening device.

Under the present legislation it is arguable that where a communication is wrongfully intercepted, no evidence of that communication, even if obtained from another source, may be admitted.

The new bill says that the prohibition applies only to evidence obtained directly or indirectly by the unlawful use of a listening device.

Mr McLay said that copies of the bill had been made available to the Law Society and the Opposition in advance.

The society had not opposed the bill in any way and the Opposition had also agreed that the matter was urgent. Hence the bill would be put through its second and third readings next week.

Mr McLay disputed Mr Prebble's assertion that the measure was designed to correct a blunder. It had simply been a drafting error.

CSO: 5320

PAKISTAN

CELL TO CONTROL DRUG ABUSE IN FRONTIER

Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 27 Jun 79 p 1

[Text] The NWFP Government has decided to set up Frontier Narcotics Control Cell to sort out the problem of drug abuse in the Province.

The decision to this effect was made at a high-level meeting, held here on Tuesday under the chairmanship of NWFP Governor, Lt Gen Fazle Haq.

The meeting was also attended, among others, by Adviser for Agriculture, Provincial Chief Secretary, and Chairman, Pakistan Narcotics Control Board.

The cell, which has been set up under the directives of Provincial Governor, will be headed by Sardar M. Habib Khan, Provincial Adviser for Agriculture as its Chairman.

Some provincial secretaries and the Chairman of the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board, will work as members of the cell.

Highlighting the salient features of the cell, Lt General Fazle Haq said that it would not only analyse the problem of drug-abuse in depth, but would also suggest short and long term measures to arrest this fast spreading menace in the area.

Lt General Fazle Haq said that his government was quite aware of the alarming situation arising out of the increasing poppy cultivation in some parts of the province.

As a remedy to the problem, he underlined the importance of public education to be given to the people, who were involved directly or indirectly with the poppy production.

The education in this respect could play a vital role for inculcating constructive ideas in concerned people.

To achieve this purpose, the news media could play effective role by projecting the adverse effects of intoxicants in the society, he said.

During the course of discussion, the Provincial Governor also referred to the Pilot Project at Bunair Sub-Division and described it as an important measure to control narcotics and said that the scope of the project should be enlarged to achieve the goal.

He emphasised that the project should envisage the basic needs like drinking water, roads and power in the area, so that a change for the better could come in the socio-economic life of the people.

Sahibzada Raoof Ali, Chairman, Pakistan Narcotics Control Board, informed the meeting about various measures, which the Board had been taking for the control of narcotics in various parts of the country.

CSO: 5300

PAKISTAN

HASH, OPIUM AND SMUGGLED CLOTH

Quetta BALUCHISTAN TIMES in English 15 Jun 79 p 1

[Text]

RAWALPINDI, June 14: The Cantonment Police arrested two persons in the early hours of this morning and recovered hash, opium and smuggled cloth worth about Rs. 6 crore in foreign market.

The Cantonment Police was earlier tipped that an international gang of smugglers was actively conducting its operation and this city constituted an important route for taking illicit goods to other parts of Pakistan and foreign countries. Acting on this information the police stepped up its vigilance and increased their patrolling.

A police squad headed by Deputy Superintendent of Police Chaudhry Gul Akbar, who was assisted by Station House Officer Cantonment Abdul Aziz, saw a Jeepster bearing No. LEH 6569 coming from Bara side, early this

morning at about 4.30 a.m. They signalled the driver to stop but the latter did not pay any heed and accelerated the speed of his vehicle.

The police party gave a chase and overtook the jeepster on the Mall Road near Plaza Cinema. The occupants of the jeepster who were only two in number tried to flee the scene but were overpowered by the police.

On search 281 rolls foreign cloth and 112 kilograms of hash and opium was recovered from vehicle. The contraband was hidden in a well packed tin. The two occupants Mumtaz from Charsadda and Shahzada of Wah were arrested.

The police sources said that they were members of international smuggling and they may lead to some important clue resulting in more arrests.—APP.

CSO: 5300

PAKISTAN

8 MAUNDS OF OPIUM SEIZED

Peshawar THE KHYBER MAIL 17 Jun 79 p 1

[Text]

The Khyber Rifles, in a raid near Landikotal captured about eight maunds of contraband opium, worth about Rs. 8 lakh on Saturday.

It is reported that Maj. Mirza Ali Khan and Subedar Mehtar Jan arranged a piquet on reports of possible smuggling of opium by certain members of an international gang of opium racketeers.

A new Toyota car was forced to stop after its driver tried to escape. Four maunds of opium was recovered from the vehicle while driver was arrested.

About an hour later another car, appeared and on its search another four maunds of opium was seized.

This is the fourth seizure during the last five days by the Khyber Rifles, during which fourteen maunds of opium has been seized.

CSO: 5300

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

CHARAS SEIZED BY RAILWAY POLICE--Railways Police has recovered 1200 grams of Charas from a passenger of Campbellpur during a campaign launched under the supervision of S.P. Mohd Ikram. The narcotic was seized at the City Railway Station by the incharge of the drive Zain Khan. [Text] [Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 25 Jun 79 p 6]

CSO: 5300

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ACCUSED SMUGGLER DENIES KNOWING DRUGS ON PLANE

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 8 May 79 p 15

[Text]

PORT MORESBY. — A Gold Coast business man facing a drug charge in Port Moresby told a magistrate yesterday that he knew nothing about marijuana found in a light aircraft he had been flying.

Wolfgang Klein, a West German who has been living in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast for more than 11 years, said the hired Cessna that he had been flying had been left unattended and in accessible positions at a number of airports in Papua New Guinea.

He said someone had entered the aircraft at Rabaul after forcing a lock on it.

Klein, 31, and a companion, Bettina Ann Le Pia, 19, who also is facing

a drug possession charge, were remanded until May 24 in Port Moresby's Boroko District Court.

Seeking bail, Klein said he and Le Pia had come to Papua New Guinea, in the Cessna on April 23, partly for business and partly for a holiday.

They had visited several centres.

Magistrate, Mr. Francis Iramu, allowed Klein, \$250 bail on condition that he surrendered his passport, and his pilot's licence.

CSO: 5300

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

MARIHUANA PLANTATION RAIDED--Marijuana plantation was raided by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation in a mountainous area in Ilocos Sur last Wednesday, resulting in the arrest of two alleged cultivators and the seizure of marijuana plants worth P800,000. Director Jolly Bugarin said a member of the raiding team was injured when he stepped on bamboo spikes; surrounding the plantation along the mountain slope in Barangay Mapisi, Nagbukol, Ilocos Sur. Bugarin identified those arrested as Jaime Cabingas and his brother-in-law Alejandro Cablayan, both farmers of the same barangay. [Text] [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 29 Jun 79 p 6]

SUSPECT IN DRUG SMUGGLING HELD--Tokyo, June 29 (UPI)--Police took over from Philippine authorities Thursday a Japanese resident in Manila believed to be a mastermind of what may turn out the largest narcotic case since World War II linking the Philippines, South Korea and Japan, police said. The suspect was identified as Shizuka Watanabe, alias Jimmy Watanabe, 43, a travel agent in Manila, police said. Police said Watanabe is believed to have masterminded a stimulant drug smuggling ring involving one of Japan's major gangster syndicate. They said 10 kilograms of stimulant drugs worth about three billion yen (\$9.2 million) have so far been smuggled into Japan. Two suspects believed to be Watanabe's accomplices have been arrested for violation of the narcotics control law, they said. Watanabe was arrested by Philippine police at his rented house in the suburbs of Manila last week and turned over to Japanese authorities aboard a plane bound for Tokyo from Manila Thursday. [Text] [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 30 Jun p 8]

CSO: 5300

SINGAPORE

REPORTS ON NARCOTICS USE, ARRESTS

Abuse Down in Armed Forces

Singapore STRAITS TIMES in English 26 May 79 p 1

[Text]

THE incidence of drug abuse detected in the Singapore Armed Forces has dropped by nearly half from the peak recorded in 1977, the Minister of State (Defence), Mr Bernard Chen, said yesterday.

Relapse rates have also reduced similarly from 4.79 per cent of the abuser population in 1977, 3.56 per cent in 1978 and to 3.28 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

And only 9 per cent of the 286 supervisees have relapsed.

This is proof that they have licked the habit more or less permanently, even in the absence of strict discipline they were subjected to while in the SAF.

Users Fined

Singapore SUNDAY TIMES in English 27 May 79 p 6

[Text]

TING Toong Kong, 53, was fined \$2,000 by a magistrate's court yesterday after he pleaded guilty to taking opium on May 14.

He was arrested by police on anti-drug rounds at Wallich Street at about 4 p.m. that day.

The same court fined drug supervisee Goh Hong Seng, 26, \$600 for consuming morphine. He pleaded guilty.

Total Arrests

Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 20 May 79 p 3

[Text]

SINGAPORE, May 19: During the operation to combat the spread of narcotics in Singapore, 17,955 people have been arrested over the past two years.

In accordance with the decision of the country's Supreme Legislative body, those guilty of illegal keeping, production or smuggling into the country of an amount greater than nine grams of heroin and other potent narcotics are sentenced to death. Twelve people have been sentenced to death penalty during last 2 years.—Tass.

CSO: 5300

SINGAPORE

SHORTAGE OF HEROIN, INCREASE IN MARIHUANA USE

Singapore STRAITS TIMES in English 29 May 79 p 11

[Text]

HEROIN addicts, who are facing an acute shortage of the drug here and an almost equally difficult task of obtaining barbiturates, the most commonly-used substitute for heroin, are believed to be turning to ganja.

Informed sources said this switch had been observed in the past two months, judging from the almost fivefold increase in the number of drug pushers caught peddling ganja.

Last month, 20 people were arrested by the Central Narcotics Bureau and the police for selling the drug, compared with an average of three or four arrests each month previously.

This month, 17 ganja pushers have been arrested up to yesterday.

Also, the sources said, statistics kept by the Customs Department showed that there was no heroin arrest made at the Woodlands checkpoint in the past two months. The last arrest made by the department was on March 31, when a man was caught with a straw of the drug worth about \$50.

In contrast, six people were caught with ganja at the checkpoint in April and three this month.

According to the sources, the authorities are convinced that most of the ganja pushers caught in the past two months are either heroin abusers themselves or had been peddling that drug before switching to ganja, and almost all those caught by customs officers at the Woodlands checkpoint are drug addicts who tried to smuggle the ganja in for their own use.

The sources also said that most of the heroin addicts used to obtain their supplies from Peninsular Malaysia, which is now also experiencing a scarcity of the drug.

Hard-core addicts there are flocking to clinics for barbiturates and other drugs as a substitute, while others have even taken their own lives rather

than to endure withdrawal pangs without the drug.

The situation there is so desperate, according to the sources, that some addicts broke into a Central Narcotics Bureau office in south Malaysia recently and got away with a small quantity of seized drugs.

The acute shortage of heroin supplies both here and in Malaysia is due partly to a 10-month-long drought in the Golden Triangle area on the borders of Burma, Thailand and Laos — one of the largest poppy-growing areas in the world.

Prices soar

Also, the concerted action by enforcement agencies here had reduced the heroin traffic to a mere trickle, if not total stoppage.

This has in turn pushed up the prices of the drug here tremendously. The drug, which cost \$7 a straw two years ago, is now sold at between \$20 and \$70.

The big hike in prices indicates that, because of the scarcity, pushers are dictating prices.

The price of ganja has also gone up. A kartoo (roll) now costs between \$3.50 and \$4 compared with about \$2.50 a few months ago.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BRIEFS

POLICY STATEMENT ON NARCOTICS--The government this morning presented its policy statement to the National Assembly at its second session. Part of the statement reads: [Kirangsak--begin recording] In narcotics suppression and prevention, the government will make serious efforts to suppress and prevent the production, trade and use of narcotics and other substances which can have effects on the human nervous system and mind. The law will be more effectively enforced. A crop substitution program will be implemented to develop the Thai hilltribe people. Rehabilitation and treatment will be made available for drug addicts so that they will not cause any burden on society. The government will cooperate with all countries to control, prevent and suppress the spreading of narcotics. [Excerpt] [Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 7 Jun 79 BK]

CSO: 5300

CANADA

HASHISH HAUL SPARKS RAIDS BY 100 POLICE

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 15 Jun 79 p 3

[Article by Tony Cote]

[Text]

About 100 police officers fanned out across the Ottawa Valley Thursday and raided numerous suspected drug pushers following the seizure Wednesday night of 200 kilograms of hashish at Ottawa International Airport.

The raids, from Kingston to Arnprior, netted thousands of dollars worth of drugs and several dozen suspects.

Following the airport seizure, police from nearly all forces in the area, including 20 from Ottawa, started a three-phase "Operation 88" at 5 a.m. Thursday.

Police hit about 35 locations, about 25 in the valley and 10 in Ottawa.

The raids were designed to hit "major distributors or importers" in the first phase, then worked their

way down to the "street people" in the final phase.

Drug squad officers seized more than 2,000 grams of hashish, 6,000 grams of Columbian marijuana, 500 dexedrine tablets and a quantity of marijuana seeds and plants. A small quantity of cocaine and opium was also found.

During the raids, police officers also seized a small truck, a "sizeable amount" of cash and some jewelry.

The raids culminated an investigation that began about five months ago.

The combined forces operation was under the direction of the RCMP in Ottawa, with most of the raids taking place in the Arnprior, Almonte and Carleton Place areas.

CSO: 5320

CANADA

FATHER, SON CHARGED WITH IMPORTING HASHISH

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 21 Jun 79 p 11

[Article by Tony Cote]

[Text]

The owner of a Vanier amusement company and his son are in jail in St. Jerome, Que., after being charged with importing 54 kilograms of hashish worth an estimated \$360,000.

Dollard Lavergne, 54, and his son Michael, both of 73 Lavergne St., Vanier, were charged a week ago after police fired a shot at a fleeing car near a hotel at Mirabel International Airport.

RCMP said Wednesday their investigation into "an organization planning to import large quantities of drugs into the Ottawa area" began about four months ago.

The probe is continuing, with another four or five arrests expected within a week. Police believe they are in the process of dismantling "one of the largest rings operating in the area."

The arrests and shooting at Mirabel came after Canadian police were notified

June 13 by police in Brussels, The Hague and Britain that drugs were thought to be on a flight arriving that night from Belgium.

"The drugs were in two suitcases and placed aboard a Sabena flight in Brussels," police said.

Police watched the movement of the suitcases carefully and shortly after the flight landed they staked out a late-model Cadillac, valued at about \$40,000, which was parked in front of the hotel.

"When we started to make an arrest ... one of them saw us and jumped into the car, which was running," police said. "He began to take off and that's when the shot was fired, stopping him."

The suitcases were found in the trunk of the vehicle.

"If we hadn't shot, there was a good chance he would have got away and that would have been the end of the drugs."

CSO: 5320

CANADA

BRIEFS

DRUG ARREST--A Touraine man has been arrested following the seizure of an estimated \$100,000 worth of hashish at Montreal's Mirabel Airport. RCMP said George Nayel, of 450 Principal St., will appear in Montreal court next week on a charge of importing hashish. He was arrested after customs officials searched several suitcases that had arrived from Brussels on a Sabena flight late Wednesday. The agents found about 30 pounds of the drug and arrested Nayel, who was on the same flight. [Text] [Ottawa THE WEEKEND CITIZEN in English 16 Jun 79 p 4]

HASHISH OIL SEIZED--Fort Erie (Special)--Hashish oil with an estimated street value of \$270,000 was found hidden in the door panel of a station wagon at the Peace Bridge, the RCMP's Toronto drug squad said yesterday. Charges of importing narcotics into Canada were laid against three Toronto people as a result of the seizure. Dorcas Annette Petrikovic, 24, and Mary-Ellen Darlene Baldwin, 22, were released yesterday in Toronto on \$10,000 bail. Stefan Blasko, 29, is being held in custody in the Don Jail pending a bail hearing later this month. The arrests were made on Sunday after lengthy surveillance by RCMP officers. [Text] [Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 22 Jun 79 p 16]

CSO: 5320

BRAZIL

POLICE BREAK UP GANG OF THREE TRAFFICKERS

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 11 Jun 79 p 8

/Text/ A gang of three very dangerous characters who have been trafficking in cocaine and marihuana, "stripping" automobiles and stealing tape decks from vehicles, was broken up by agents from the Criminal Investigation Section of the 11th Precinct of the Sao Paulo Police Headquarters. Members of the gang are Gioni Dangio, alias "Russo," 19 years old, the leaders; Valci Cordeiro Campos, alias "Perninha," also 19 years old, and Sergio Nunes dos Santos, known as "Carioca," 23 years old. The gang's downfall resulted from the fact the "Russo" had planned the murder of a rival of the band, Altino Gomes da Silva Neto, 25 years old, living in Square 907 south, Block C, Shop 9, People's Market. Altino, who has a Federal Police record for the trafficking and use of drugs, according to recorded data, was attacked and almost died from a bullet wound in the chest. The criminal assault was carried out by Valci Cordeiro, "Perninha," and Sergio Nunes, "Carioca." Valci Cordeiro, who is a native of Acre, living in a boardinghouse located in Square 703, Block G, House 41, which belongs to Altino's father, together with "Carioca," is responsible for more than 50 thefts of vehicle tape decks. "Carioca" acknowledged his illegal deeds at the Robbery and Theft Headquarters, where every possible effort is being made to recover the equipment stolen by the gang, and which, for the time being, is still in the possession of fences.



Sergio Nunes, alias "Carioca"



Valci, or "Perninha"
Drug user



Gioni Dangio, Alias "Russo"
leader of the gang

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CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

POLICE SEEK MORE CONTROL OVER ETHER, ACETONE SALES

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 Jun 79 p 10

/Text/ The Narcotics Control Division of the Federal Department of Police is carefully formulating the details of instructions to be sent to the Narcotics Technical Section of the Ministry of Health, urging them to exercise greater control over the sale of ether and acetone which are used by traffickers in the manufacture of cocaine hydrochloride.

The police have been informed that gangs of narcotics traffickers in Brazil are purchasing a large quantity of ether and acetone to fill the need for these products in those countries producing cocaine.

According to Deputy Arlindo Duarte Chanca, from the Narcotics Control Division, the measure will be of tremendous importance by making it possible for the Federal Police to have a list of those purchasing large quantities (drums) of ether and acetone, and to compare it with the names of traffickers.

Yesterday morning, three assistant deputies from the Narcotics Control Division gave an information talk to about 40 law students from the Brazilian School of Legal Sciences on "Drugs and Related Subjects, Their Causes and Effects on the Human Body; Drug Trafficking; and the Involvement of Minors in the Use and Abuse of Narcotics." Following the talk, they showed a film.

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CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

DRUG SALES IN RIO COMPRIDO NORMAL DESPITE YOUTH'S DEATH

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 10 Jun 79 p 20

/Text/ Despite the death of the minor, S. G., the marihuana hangout located at 117 Rua do Bispo--a large house on the left side of the avenue leading to the Carlos Jose da Cunha home--yesterday continued open as usual selling marihuana and cocaine. Two lookouts hovered in the vicinity and warned of the presence of persons "suspected of being the police."

The trafficker, Paulo Cesar Duarte alias Paulinho Duarte, whose partner, Denis, acts as his stooge, operates the narcotics salespoint. Both have already been arrested and processed several times by the Narcotics Headquarters, but are at large, a fact that no one can explain. Pushers leave the hangout daily to distribute narcotics in the neighborhood.

Students

Most of the users are university students from the Estacio de Sa University School, located a little more than 100 meters from the hangout. Those selling the marihuana and cocaine to the students are 10 to 15 year-old boys. These youngsters regularly enter the local bars and restaurants where narcotics can be bought at any time.

Paulinho Duarte's other salespoint is in a wooded valley shaped like a hole, between the Estrada de Sumare, the Rua Infante de Sagres and some shacks. It was there that the minors P.S.C.A. and S.G. sniffed a handkerchief soaked in trichloroethylene.

The minor P.S.C.A. bought the trichloroethylene for 120 cruzeiros a liter on Monday evening at the Wolff Laboratory in Bom Sucesso. He presented a purchase order on behalf of the ARL automobile-hood shop, without which, according to the laboratory owner, Mr Alexandre Wolff, he could not buy the product, since he exercises strict control over sales to prevent addicted youths from getting it.

The ARL shop's owner, Mr Antonio Rosendo de Lima, explained that, some days previous to the death of P.S.C.A.'s girlfriend, a sheet of purchase orders had disappeared from the shop. It was one, numbered 401, that the minor used to buy the trichloroethylene from the laboratory clerk, Oscar da Silva.

Control

Mr Alexandre Wolff stated that he was expecting to be called on to explain the sale of the trichloroethylene to P.S.C.A. He explained that the product is used with acrylic glue and is very toxic if sniffed for any length of time. Aware of the fact that addicted youths use trichloroethylene--which they call "a whiff of lo-lo"--he decided to control its sale by selling only to companies that presented the order on stamped paper.

The clerk, Oscar da Silva, stated that he remembered having sold the liter of trichloroethylene to a youth, but said that he could not recognize him because at the time he did not think the product was going to be used as a euphoriant.

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CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

DRUGS SEIZED BY POLICE INCINERATED IN CAJU

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 9 Jun 79 p 15

[Excerpt] Yesterday, 600 kilos of marihuana, a kilo and a half of cocaine and LSD, and Lipomax, Pervitin and Diazepam tablets were incinerated in the Sao Sebastiao Hospital furnace in Caju. The State Narcotics Headquarters seized the material in several "searches" and handed it over to the Department of Health General Department of Inspection which confirmed its toxicity and ordered it to be burned.

According to the state under-secretary of health, Raimundo Moreira de Oliveira, who was present at the time representing the secretary, Silvio Barvosa, incineration "is a civic action, as narcotics are driving society to despair." He added that the secretary of health is now planning the construction of another more modern and efficient incinerator which is to be installed within 6 months on the same site.

"It is going to be installed right here because that hospital is far away from the center and because it is intended for the cure of infective-contagious diseases. The patient from here is already contaminated and cannot be in any further danger--should any exist--of being contaminated by the fumes coming from the furnace.

An entire safety plan was set up yesterday in the Sao Sebastiao Hospital for incinerating the narcotics. Besides the armored truck--in which the material was brought--there were two small police cars and three machine-gun equipped police cars. The state narcotics deputy, Caetano Maiolino, also brought up the need for the construction of "the quickest possible new furnace."

It is going to be even better for the safety of the hospital which could be suddenly overrun by offenders who, suffering from the withdrawal syndrome--a complaint caused by the need for a narcotics fix--succeed in finding fragments of cocaine even in the ashes from this furnace, which is not specifically designed for burning narcotics.

Caetano Maiolina has been in charge of the incineration of narcotics since 1966. Compared with other months in which there has been an incineration, he said, the amount of narcotics in the furnace has been small.

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CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

POLICE SEIZE 210 KILOS OF MARIHUANA, TRAFFICKERS IN RIO

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 7 Jun 79 p 20

/Text/ An ordinary marihuana incident led to the seizure yesterday of the largest amount of marihuana ever to take place at one time in the State of Rio: 210 kilos in 14 packages of 15 kilos each. Arrested were six traffickers among whom was one minor. The drug, produced in Paraguay, was found on a small farm on the Guapore Highway, 887, Xerem district, Caxias, where Luiz Barbosa da Silva was living.

Besides Luiz, also arrested were Onacir Pereira Dias dos Santos, Ricardo Farias Pinto, Estela Magalhaes, Maria Pamplona and R. R. a 17 year-old minor.

The Incident

Monday night, during a numbers game which was going on in front of number 203, Rua da Lapa, PM /Military Police/ officers caught the trafficker, Onacir Pereira Dias dos Santos red-handed. At the narcotics headquarters he divulged the name of his supplier, Ricardo Farias Pinto. The latter was arrested at the Hotel Belas Artes, in the Praca Tiradentes, together with Mariza Pamplona. In one of the two hotel rooms rented by the trafficker, the police found a trunk containing several kilos of marihuana and 82 vials of psychotropics. Ricardo named Luiz Barbosa da Silva as the owner of the goods, and also accused Estela Magalhaes and the minor R. R. who were arrested on the corner of Almirante Alexandrino and Candido Mendes streets, in Santa Teresa. The two had a kilo of marihuana in their possession.

Barbosa da Silva, described by a partner as a country bumpkin, denies being one of the leaders of the marihuana traffic. He maintains that he merely kept the drug in his house at the request of two strangers, "a foreigner and a Brazilian," who, he said, showed some interest in buying the place.

Delivery

In his testimony, Luiz says that the two men visited him for the third time and on that occasion asked him to look after the packages delivered by truck. They said that they would come back later to pick them up. According to Luiz, they never returned. He accepted the packages, he explained, despite the fact that his wife had warned him that they might be swindlers.

The police, however, do not believe this story and are continuing their inquiries in order to arrest other members of a possible traffickers' network. One of the two men mentioned by Luiz and suspected of being his partner, is a Paraguayan known as Pena.

According to information ascertained by investigation, Luiz Barbosa bought the marihuana in Pedro Juan Caballero, in Paraguay, by making a down payment of one million cruzeiros, and paying another one million cruzeiros on delivery of the goods. The amount seized, according to the police, comes to at least half of the 500 kilos recently brought in from Paraguay.

The investigators said that since Friday around 290 kilos of marihuana had been taken out of the Guapore Highway farm on four occasions, and has already been delivered to the gang's distributors in charge of selling it directly to the addicts.

Also seized was a white TL Volkswagon with a PX-5559 license plate, belonging to Ricardo Farias Pinto. It is suspected that it was this car that was used to transport the drug into Rio. On the car's windshield there was a DETRAN Traffic Department card with green and yellow traverse strips and the inscription: Reporters--in service, which gave it free passage.



Onacir's habit led him to prison

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CS0: 5300

COLOMBIA

MARIHUANA LEGALIZATION DEBATE CONTINUES

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Jun 79 pp 1-B, 4-B

[Text] The proposal to legalize marihuana cultivation and export in Colombia, suggested in an ANIF [National Association of Financial Institutions] symposium that was held recently in Bogota, has been heard around the world. Following are excerpts from newspapers and magazines in the United States, Brazil, France, Italy, England and Latin America.

Several Decades Away: MIAMI HERALD

A Colombian financial leader indicated last week that North Americans spend twice as much to buy marihuana as Colombia spends to repress it. He said that both countries would have to examine the possibility of legalizing it.

Ernesto Samper, president of ANIF, presented the proposal in a symposium of Colombian and U.S. experts to discuss legalization of the drug that is grown illegally in large quantities in Colombia and taken to the U.S. black market.

U.S. Ambassador Diego Asencio spoke to the group and defended his government's policies against the drugs. He said that marihuana legalization in the United States is still several decades away. Samper, 29 years old, indicated that the Colombian Government spends \$146 million a year to repress marihuana traffic while U.S. users spend \$360 million to buy it. Samper said that Colombia could receive about the same sum in taxes that it uses in the fight against marihuana if this were legalized (MIAMI HERALD, United States).

Irony: WORLD BUSINESS WEEKLY

A new cash crop has provoked a national debate in Colombia. According to some, this could make the country more independent of the

erratic prices of coffee, pay for its oil imports, finance the construction of schools and highways and, at the same time, produce a feeling of ecstasy and happiness in millions of North Americans. The crop is marihuana.

It grows abundantly in this country which is burdened with debts. Its price is so high that it is called "Colombian gold" in the United States. It is also an appropriate name in Colombia since, in spite of the fact that millions are spent to combat the illegal traffic, conservative calculations estimate that tons of unrefined marihuana go to the United States each year where North Americans pay \$1.4 billion annually for that pleasure.

The war that Colombia fights against marihuana has been successful. Last month soldiers confiscated 1,500 bundles of marihuana, two boats, two airplanes and arrested 60 traffickers in 1 week. Ironically, during the same week, a top-level seminar in Bogota opened the first serious discussion about the possibility of legalizing marihuana (WORLD BUSINESS WEEKLY, London).

Naive Act: IL SOLE

The only effect the occasional searches for cultivation areas has is to raise the prices on the international market, thus increasing the income of the large traffickers and concentrating the negative repercussions on the small growers. If marihuana traffic is inevitable, it is worth legalizing or having it under control, taking it out of the hands of organized crime; this seems to be the basic statement of Colombian businessmen today.

The North Americans have the last word since they are directly affected by the problem. A unilateral decision by Colombia would certainly be a naive act. The Bogota meeting ended with a formal proposal that a Colombian-American committee be established to study the delicate question. It should be asked whether we are approaching a government where marihuana will have an official quota in economic and financial activities (Guiseppe Zatta, IL SOLE, Milan).

Pays Better: LATIN AMERICA ECONOMIC REPORT

Growing marihuana in Colombia is 2.5 times more lucrative than growing coffee, according to the latest figures. The growers receive only 8 percent of the income from the sale of the drug; nevertheless, their income is much higher than most other agricultural producers. Wages paid to workers in marihuana fields are more than twice the national average of agricultural wages....

Legalization of marihuana production and trade would be economically correct because it would stimulate the flow of foreign currency,

precisely when it is predicted that the value of coffee exports will decrease \$650 million this year with little possibility of compensation by other exports (LATIN AMERICA ECONOMIC REPORT, England).

Carcinogen: VISION

At the symposium (ANIF), U.S. Ambassador Diego Asencio also spoke. The diplomat said: "The question of illegal drugs in the modern world is complex and often leads to conflicts."

Asencio questioned the figures revealed by some publications about marihuana use in his country. He said: "No one knows how many people use marihuana in the United States. The truth is that although there have been attempted surveys, it is impossible."

With respect to medical research in the United States on the effect of the drug, the U.S. ambassador said that the information is fragmentary and incomplete. "We are seeing differences of opinion about the ultimate effects of the prolonged use of marihuana.... Nevertheless, I am really impressed by recent reports that marihuana might contain five times more carcinogenic agents than tobacco" (VISION, inter-American magazine).

Unexpected Support: FINANCIAL TIMES

Although legalization was formally attacked by the U.S. ambassador and the Colombian Government, many of the establishment like the president of the Bogota Stock Market and the comptroller general have given their approval so the debate continues....

Support for legalization came from an unexpected source: General Jose Joaquin Matallana, former chief of the Security Police. He believes that the state should assume total control of marihuana production and export and use the profits for social and physical infrastructure in the regions of cultivation. One example has already been given by the governor of Cesar Department who is using the revenue from fines for illegal flights and other drug-related crimes for rural electricity programs (THE FINANCIAL TIMES, London).

Speculating Groups: CORREIO MERCANTIL

We already had a minister of finance in Brazil about 6 years ago who presented the curious idea that "governments are unethical--that is, amoral." The controversial idea was not accepted in Brazil but it seems to have found followers in Colombia. According to a very old saying, "no one is a prophet in his own land" and "an instant saint does not perform miracles."

We do not believe, therefore, that the noble Colombian nation will yield to the pressure of speculating groups (or multinational businesses when it is in vogue to make them the scapegoat for national inefficiency) and try to replace coffee with marihuana in its export strategy (Eurico Ponteado, CORREIO MERCANTIL, Brazil).

Economic Benefits: THE LATIN AMERICAN TIMES

In the recent conference sponsored by ANIF, the proponents of legalization argued that, in addition to saving the money that is now spent on suppressing the traffic, the state could earn about \$140 million annually from a 100-percent export tax. Also corruption would end, the reign of law would return to La Guajira and the money from the traffic would be distributed more equitably--the peasants, not the intermediaries, would receive a greater percentage of the profits. They add that marihuana is only slightly more harmful than tobacco or alcohol, industries that prosper with the blessings of the government. Although opponents state that legalization in Colombia would cause antagonism in the powerful neighbor to the north, they reply that the U.S. Government has done little to discourage the export to Latin America of products such as DDT, inadequately tested drugs and flammable pajamas for children (all banned in the United States).

Apparently there is no question that, from a purely economic point of view, legalization would benefit Colombia, at least in the short term. It is difficult to predict what would happen in the long run, especially if other countries followed Colombia. The question, nevertheless, is whether moral considerations should outweigh economic ones (Guillermo Owen, coming issue of THE LATIN AMERICAN TIMES, international magazine published in Bogota).

In addition to these publications, France's LE MONDE and NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR and the U.S. magazines TIME and HIGH TIMES, among others, have had reports on the proposed legalization that is being debated in Colombia or are writing reports on it now.

7717
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

HK-1291 CASE CONTINUES TO CAUSE CONCERN

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 30 May 79 p 3-A

[Text] Two years after the international scandal of the marihuana airplane, the Bogota courts have still not managed to correct the stupid actions of a judge in Barranquilla and the matter has just returned to the indictment stage.

Meanwhile, the crew of the airplane left the country when the official released them. Only Juan Manuel Diaz-Granados Retat, returned by the United States, and Fernando Gutierrez remain in jail.

Recently the Bogota Superior Court rescinded the decree that declared the investigation closed, a decision that the Barranquilla judge made without authority. It also declared that the circuit criminal judge, Ines Valderrama de Patino, must be excused from the case.

The proceedings were sent to the second circuit criminal judge, Enrique Alford, who will continue the case through sentencing. He receives the case at the indictment stage and thus has the chance to gather the necessary evidence.

The incident occurred in April 1977 when the Aerosucre DC-6 airplane with registration HK-1291 left Barranquilla loaded with 12 tons of marihuana; it gave El Banco as its destination. Nevertheless, the airplane left the country and landed in a field near the town of Jetmore, Kansas, United States. Only Colombian Juan Manuel Diaz-Granados Retat was found with the airplane.

In June 1977 the airplane crew--Roberto Lopez, pilot; William Olarte Yance, copilot; and Rafael Visbal, flight engineer--showed up in La Guajira where they gave a fantastic story about a kidnaping. They were placed under the jurisdiction of the judge in Barranquilla who heard the indictment. He released them and hastily declared the investigation closed.

At this point, the judicial proceedings concerned the government. Through the courts, it changed the venue of the trial and brought it to Bogota. However, when the authorities looked for the crew members, they had already disappeared.

The case was assigned to Judge Ines Valderrama de Patino who issued several decisions and even rescinded the closing of the investigation in order to find basic incriminating evidence. The Barranquilla judge had closed the investigation without authority.

This decision was confirmed by the court. Later Maximio Visbal, attorney for the crew, accused Judge Valderrama de Patino. For that reason, she was forced to excuse herself from the case; however, the second judge, Enrique Alford, rejected this. The matter was resolved by the court when it accepted the judge's withdrawal.

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COLOMBIA

FORTY KILOS OF COCAINE SEIZED

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 2 Jun 79 p 8

[Text] Secret agents of the Valle Police Department recently dealt a hard blow against the drug traffic gangs. They seized 40 kilos of cocaine and arrested 13 people including the owner of the farm where the cocaine was hidden.

The operation was carried out at the El Mango farm on the highway from Cali to Santander de Quilichao. The secret agents also confiscated four revolvers, two rifles, one shotgun, a 1979 Ranger pickup truck, two campers with free passage and three long-range CB radios.

The F-2 agents also discovered cocaine-processing equipment so they deduced that those arrested were involved in cocaine processing and traffic in different regions of the country and abroad.

The General Police Headquarters revealed that the owner of the farm, Alberto Rostrepo, was the leader of those arrested. He and the other people and the equipment confiscated were placed under the jurisdiction of the appropriate authorities who began an investigation. The value of the cocaine seized might reach 100 million pesos; the 40 kilos included different degrees of purity so the cost varies.

The arrests of the members of this gang represent one of the most successful blows against the criminal organizations that are now operating at the national and international level.

According to reports from the editorial staff of this newspaper, the weapons seized are very modern. Some of them were obtained from gangs involved in the arms trade in exchange for several kilos of cocaine. The 13 people arrested were taken to the capital of Valle where they were placed under the jurisdiction of a criminal judge. He will quickly transfer them to the General Prison Headquarters which will assign them to a place until they go on trial.

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COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--The F-2 dealt a hard blow against the cocaine traffic gangs in the country early yesterday morning in the capital of Cauca when it discovered a modern cocaine laboratory and arrested 12 people involved in drug traffic. The investigators confiscated four revolvers, two rifles, one shotgun, two campers, one pickup truck, two CB radios and cocaine-processing equipment. The General Police Headquarters said that those arrested were led by the owner of the farm where the operation was carried out, Alberto Restrepo. He was placed under the jurisdiction of the appropriate authorities. These events took place on the El Naranjo farm on the main highway between Cali and Santander de Quilichao in Cauca. The arrests of the members of this gang represent one of the most successful blows against the criminal organizations that are now operating at the national and international level. [Text] [Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 2 Jun 79 p 11-A] 7717

GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS HERBICIDE--The national government initiated a study on the possibility of using herbicides to exterminate the marihuana fields on the Atlantic coast and the eastern plains. Attorney General Guillermo Gonzalez Charry established a commission of scientists last Tuesday to study herbicides, especially "paracuat," for the destruction of marihuana fields. This product, according to Gonzalez Charry, was used in Mexico with apparently very good results but the possibilities of using it in Colombia are still not known since there must be a technical study on the different aspects of its application. The commission is headed by the director of the Pharmacology Department of National University, Gonzalo Montes Duque. These professionals have 3 months to give their findings to the attorney general. The meeting that Gonzalez Charry will hold next week in Mexico with the Mexican attorney general, Oscar Florez, will deal with this and related subjects concerning the problems of marihuana cultivation and traffic. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Jun 79 p 3-A] 7717

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COSTA RICA

BRIEFS

TRAFFICKERS CONVICTED--Julio Lopez Vasquez and Jose Salguero Tencio were sentenced to 6 years in prison for cocaine trafficking, the Judicial Investigation Organization [OIJ] has reported. The two traffickers were sentenced at the First Superior Court. They fell into a trap set up by OIJ agents on 15 December 1978 when Lopez and Salguero sold a certain amount of cocaine to an agent who pretended to be a buyer. [San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 27 Jun 79 p 12Z PA]

CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Guayaquil--Ecuadorean citizens Milton Rene Grisalba Moreira, Ivan Arturo Grisalba Romo and Secundo [name indistinct] were arrested by the Guayas Province Interpol while in possession of 1 kg of cocaine, \$5,500 in U.S. currency, a small truck and 2 checks, all of which were confiscated. [Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1255 GMT 26 Jun 79 PA]

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PERU

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARREST--Lima, 10 July (PL)--Canadian John Blair and U.S. citizen Jesue Malandra have been arrested at Jorge Chavez International Airport while trying to leave the country with 1 and 1/2 kg of cocaine. They were carrying the drug in plastic bags and planned to leave for Bogota and Mexico. [Lima PRELA in Spanish to PRELA Havana 1523 GMT 10 Jul 79 PA]

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VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

COCAINE HAUL--Lt Col Edgar Morales Pereira, head of intelligence of the metropolitan police, has reported that 250,000 bolivares worth of cocaine were seized from three individuals in the Diego de Lozada neighborhood in San Jose. He said that the traffickers were identified as Raul Antonio Aldana, a Colombian who is 43 years of age; [name indistinct] Castellano, Aldana's lover, who is 25 years of age; and Juan Salvador Villares, 31 years of age. A station wagon and several weapons were also seized from them. [Caracas Radio Continents Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 6 Jul 79 PA]

CSO: 5300

IRAN

KHOMAYNI BANS ALCOHOL, PERMITS NARCOTICS

Madras THE HINDU 29 May 79 p 7 WA

[Excerpts] Tehran, May 28--Hundreds of thousands of peasants in the fertile areas of Iran have begun harvesting what could be the biggest Iranian opium crop of the century. Their enterprise threatens to flood world markets with illicit drugs.

When the monarchy was overthrown last February all official restrictions on the drug trade were swept away with the rest of the shah's administration. America pulled out its narcotic advisers and pedlars began to sell everything from heroin to hashish openly in the streets.

The huge drug problem created by the revolution is increasingly worrying the Government and Iran's religious leadership. When they realised that the shah's security forces had disintegrated, farmers all over Iran hastened to plant papaver somniferum--the poppy from which opium is derived. Now that the lucrative cash crop is ready for harvesting, the country's new rulers have called for strict control of poppy cultivation. But they are probably too late.

One of the problems in stamping out drug addiction in Iran is that Islam's attitude to narcotics is vague. The strict ban on alcohol does not extend to drugs, which are not even mentioned in the Koran.

However, Iran's unofficial head of state Ayatollah Khomeini, who has come under pressure from doctors to declare drugs haram (taboo), recently denounced heroin-pedlars as "first-class traitors and a danger to society".

Col. Parviz Sahabi, head of the Shahr-e-Now police station, said the big problem facing the authorities was that traffickers had obtained arms during the revolution when all the capital's military armouries were raided by civilians.

CSO: 5300

IRAN

BRIEFS

EXECUTION FOR NARCOTIC SMUGGLERS--Tehran, 16 Jun--Iran's Revolutionary Courts will pass the death sentence on anyone convicted of drug trafficking, the official Pars news agency reported today. Pars quoted the prosecutor General of the south western oil town of Abadan as saying that anyone involved in the import, export, sale or trafficking of narcotics would be condemned to death. Over 300 traffickers were executed by firing squad in Iran after the Shah introduced Draconian Anti-Drug Laws in 1969. There have, however, been no executions for drug offenses since 1976. At present the Revolutionary Courts are only handing out death sentences for political crimes committed under the Shah's administration and certain sexual offenses.--Reuter. [Text] [Quetta BALUCHISTAN TIMES in English 17 Jun 79 p 1]

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FRANCE

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKER SENTENCED--Francis Tourdre, 42, nicknamed Francis le Rouge [Francis the Red], arrested in April 1974, was sentenced on 28 June by the Marseilles court to 8 years imprisonment, 3 years of banishment and to the loss of his passport. He was found guilty of having belonged to a drug ring that sold 650 kilograms of heroin in the United States at the time of the "French Connection." In addition, he and the three others sentenced with him must pay 65 million francs to the administration of the Customs Service's civil division, said sum corresponding to twice the value of the drugs sold. [Text] [Paris LE MONDE in French 4 Jul 79 p 9]

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18 JULY 1979

(FOUO 30/79)

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NORWAY

EIGHT ARRESTED IN NORWAY'S LARGEST COCAINE CASE

Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 23 May 79 p 3

[Article by Bjarne Brjugeland]

[Text] Police in Stavanger are mopping up Norway's biggest cocaine case to date. So far four Norwegians and four foreigners have been arrested and charged with the illegal import and sale of cocaine. At this time seven of those arrested have confessed. They admit importing and selling between 100 and 150 grams of cocaine worth roughly 200,000 kroner. Five of those arrested, three foreigners and two Norwegians, will probably be charged under Paragraph 162 of the penal code. This paragraph, also known as the "pro paragraph," has a penalty limit of 10 years in jail. The cocaine was imported via Sola. Some of it was sent on via one or more platforms in the North Sea. The rest was sold in the district and in Stavanger.

On 7 May the police arrested a man at Forus heliport. He was suspected of having broken into the doctor's office on the platform he came from. Morphine had been stolen there. Following the arrest the police linked the man with several other people. In the course of interrogation the investigators found some connections. This led to the arrests of seven other people. The police think that more are involved and more arrests are expected.

The confessions of those arrested gave the Stavanger police force confirmation of the fact that there is more abuse of narcotic substances on the platforms than they had thought. Cocaine is such a hard drug that use of the substance constitutes a safety hazard on an oil installation. The effect of the drug is to lose any ability to concentrate. It now appears that cocaine is sold and used on at least one platform.

The four Norwegians are all from Stavanger -- while the fourth [as written] commutes from another country. It is not yet known whether this man is responsible for bringing the drug into Norway. The case against the eight will probably come to court next month. It is common for cases with sentences exceeding 5 years to come up before the court of assizes.

It was after a hard interrogation and after one of the ringleaders tried to place the blame on another that the case began to "break" for the police. When the other man learned that his accomplice had tried to blame him he confessed. This confession enabled police to bring charges against all eight.

"They were really glad to be caught," policeman Olav Faret said.

"They had felt for a long time that what they were doing was illegal. When they were arrested the confessions came gushing out."

Police Inspector Johan Schancke was asked if this case would lead to stricter controls at Forus.

"We don't have any reason to carry out such strict controls where helicopter passengers are concerned. We can't strip everybody naked every time they go somewhere by helicopter. No one would accept that kind of treatment. But you have to search people that carefully to find cocaine. This substance comes in small quantities. One gram is enough for up to 10 doses and it's easy to hide."

What about stationing policemen on the oil rigs?

"I don't think that will be considered. But I do feel we should ask the Ministry of Justice for more funds for making checks out there. The specter of narcotics makes that a necessity. Here in Stavanger we have barely enough people to investigate what happens on land. We could make more frequent checks if we had more manpower. In the past we have found small amounts of various drugs out there. In this case we haven't found any cocaine but those arrested have confessed that they had the drug," police inspector Schancke said.

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CSO: 5300

SWEDEN

GANG SMUGGLED AMPHETAMINES IN RAILROAD BERTHS

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 14 Jun 79 pp 1, 12

[Article by Leif Dahlin]

[Text] In the course of the last few years, a narcotics gang has been smuggling several hundred kilos of amphetamines in ordinary sleeping compartments of trains from the Continent to Sweden. The gang has also been smuggling large quantities of heroin from Thailand. The total "street" value of the narcotics which the gang has confessed to having sold in the Stockholm area has been estimated at approximately 25 million kronor. The gang was uncovered by the narcotics squad at Huddinge after several years of investigation work.

Seven Greeks, among them a woman who had been a heroin courier, have been put under arrest, while a warrant has been issued for the arrest of five other Greeks who are still at large. All of them live in Sweden. The leader of the gang is about 40 years old. Last year he was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for a serious narcotics offence. He was sentenced for smuggling seven hectograms of heroin into Sweden from Thailand. He managed to escape from the police and flush 1.2 kg of heroin down the toilet at a restaurant at Solna.

The man was one of the closest associates of the so-called King of the Underworld. Together with his Greek countrymen, the King of the Underworld directed a large part of the narcotics smuggling from the prison. He gave directives to his associates when they visited him in the prison.

The new branch of the gang was cut off a short time ago when the last top member of the gang was apprehended and confessed to the smuggling of 1 kg of heroin. District attorney Lars Cedermarck, special prosecuting attorney in narcotics cases:

Large Gang

The gang in question has been operating in this country since 1977. Considering the quantity of narcotics which certain members of the gang have confessed to smuggling into the country, it is one of the biggest and most serious narcotics crimes ever uncovered in this country.

The leader of the gang who previously was sentenced for smuggling 7 hectograms of heroin into the country, has now confessed to the smuggling of 3 kg and, altogether, to the smuggling of 5 kg. Furthermore, the gang has confessed to smuggling 45 kg of amphetamines from the Netherlands. Actually, the quantity is many times larger. The narcotics squad at Huddinge has been working very hard to get the gang arrested. The officers have been working a lot on overtime. During certain periods, seven to eight officers have had to work all round the clock.

The investigations have taken place in close cooperation with the narcotics department of the National Swedish Criminal Police Corps and the narcotics divisions at Eskilstuna and Gothenburg. Even the Dutch, Danish, Norwegian and Greek police, as well as the various departments of the customs authorities, have been involved.

Help From Abroad

The services of liaison officers of the National Swedish Police, detective sergeants Jan Rosen in Bangkok and Roy Stragner in the Hague have been of inestimable importance. Officers of the squad involved in the investigation state that, without the cooperation of these men, it would never have been possible to uncover the gang.

The amphetamines were smuggled from the Netherlands on a regular basis. The traffic was at its peak in 1977. The gang had rented an entire hotel on the outskirts of Amsterdam. They paid a monthly rent of 17,000 kronor for 40 beds. From the hotel, all business contacts were made with the amphetamine factories which, at the time, were still operating in various places in the Netherlands. The gang had the hotel for six months. The owner of the hotel never gave any thought to the kind of business that was carried on.

One of the members of the gang has stated to the police that most of the money he made on the traffic was spent on gambling. One night he lost 140,000 kronor on a black roulette in Stockholm, and, in the course of one year, he lost between 5 and 7 million kronor on illegal and legal roulettes.

Railroad Smuggling

As a rule, the smuggling of amphetamines was done via trains. The couriers bought first-class tickets. The bags containing the amphetamines were taped under the seats of the lower berths. Chief coach attendant Karl-Arvid Klintbjer of the Swedish State Railways:

It sometimes happens that we find narcotics under the seats in the sleeping compartments. They are found in connection with the cleaning of the trains. We also find narcotics in boots and shoes that have been left behind as well as in the roofs of the toilets, Mr. Klintbjer said.

The wife of the leader of the gang has been the heroin courier of the gang. She has made several trips to Bangkok where she purchased the drugs and placed them in her brassiere. On one occasion, she smuggled 1 kg in her brassiere. She was apprehended in the customs department at Helsingborg in the course of a routine check. A customs officer saw her throw some bags into a box before being bodily searched. The bags contained 300 grams of heroin of a high percentage. Incidentally, that was the only seizure that was made.

The woman has stated that she was instructed to buy the heroin in Bangkok at the price per kilo of 12,500 kronor.

In this connection, it might be mentioned that 1 kg of heroin distributed to consumers in Stockholm costs between 2 and 3 million kronor. The amphetamines cost up to 300 kronor per gram.

The gang has been well aware of the risks of detection, but the lenient Swedish sentences have outweighed the risks involved. Criminal investigator Thorbjörn Carlstedt says that the narcotics gangs on the Continent are very much interested in the Swedish narcotics market since the drugs fetch four times as much in Sweden as in other West European countries.

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TURKEY

NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL LAW AMENDMENTS

Ankara RESMI GAZETE in Turkish 31 May 79 p 2

[Text] Law for the Amendment of Articles 3, 23, and 28 of the Law for Control of Narcotic Substances

Law No. 2236

Date of Acceptance 22 May 1979

Article 1: Articles 3, 23, and 28 of Law No. 2313 concerning the Control of Narcotic Substances have been amended as follows:

Article 3: The planting of hemp for the sole purpose of obtaining hashish, and the preparation, importation, exportation, and sale of hashish, in whatever form, are prohibited.

Article 23: Hemp plants, wherever they may be located, grown in order to obtain hashish without permission having been obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, are to be destroyed by the police upon the order of the highest civil authority of the locality, following a report presented by a higher agricultural engineer or agricultural technician of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The necessary appropriation for this shall be attached to the budget of the General Gendarmerie Command; the technical means and materials for this are to be procured out of this appropriation.

The expenditure on destruction of the hemp for each producer shall thereafter be collected from them in accord with the Law on Procedure for the Collection of Public Debts.

Those who plant hemp in contravention of the prohibition contained in the 3rd Article shall be punished by a court of law by a period of imprisonment of not less than one year and by a monetary fine of between two-thousand and ten-thousand liras.

Article 28: In accordance with the authority of Article 60 of the Law for the Prevention and Prosecution of Contraband Activities, a reward shall be provided to those who provide information on illegal hemp and aid in its confiscation, based on the monetary penalties entailed by the crimes enumerated in Article 27 and on the monetary penalties decreed in accord with Article 23.

Article 2: This Law shall become valid on the date of its publication.

Article 3: The Council of Ministers shall implement the edicts of this Law.

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CSO: 5300

TURKEY

HEROIN SMUGGLING NETWORK BROKEN

Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish 13 Jun 79 p 10

[Article by Ahmet Tanyolac]

[Text] A seven-person group, which includes one woman, has begun to be tried on charges of conveying heroin abroad. The death penalty has been called for. Mehmet Saydam, who is accused of organizing the ring in his shop, which sells touristic goods, to deal in pure heroin, said to have a market value abroad of 40 million lira, and then intending to convey it out of the country, said that he had bought the heroin for his own personal use. Narcotics Division team members, receiving a tipoff that preparations were being made to send 1.200 kilo of heroin abroad, masqueraded as two workers coming from Germany to Turkey on leave and thereby captured the ring. During the operations by the police, who posed as heroin buyers, they first determined the house in which the group with which they had established contact had hidden the heroin. They then seized the heroin, camouflaged among packages of coffee in three large sacks, in the Haskoy home of a woman named Zehra Erdogan.

Of the seven-person group, whose trial has begun in Istanbul's First Criminal Court for Felonies on charges of conspiring to smuggle heroin abroad, Mehmet Saydam said that "I got the heroin to take myself. I got it from an Iranian as payment for a loan. It has nothing to do with the other suspects." As for Zehra Erdogan, in whose house the heroin was found, she testified in court that "Mehmet Saydam is a relative of mine. He had brought a package to my house and said it was coffee. I never opened it or looked inside it." The other suspects did not admit any guilt either.

In the court's first session, all the suspects except Mehmet Saydam, who admitted his guilt, were discharged.

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CSO: 5300

TURKEY

HASHISH SEIZED FROM FEMALE UNDERWORLD FIGURE'S HOUSE

Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish 8 Jun 79 p 10

Text Istanbul: "Octopus Inci", a female underworld kingpin whose 18 kilos of hashish have been seized from the special compartments of the bathroom of a house which she had recently acquired and used only as a storage depot, is the object of an intensive police search.

It is reported by police officials that 31-year-old Incilay Kilinc, known by her nickname of "Octopus Inci", has had previous convictions at various times, including four counts of firing a pistol and three counts of possession of hashish.

Reported to have been responsible for a large part of the hashish smuggling of the Istanbul market, Incilay Kilinc has not been found, despite all the efforts of Narcotics Division detectives, who raided her house at Emece Sokak No. 3/13 in Sultan Mahalle and seized 18 kilos of hashish.

Officials revealed that, following a tipoff, a raid was carried out on the house recently acquired and used only as a depot by Incilay Kilinc, who has convictions for narcotics dealing dating back quite some time, and that 18 kilos of hashish were seized, together with a sensitive set of scales used in conjunction with its sale.

During the course of the investigation of Incilay Kilinc, the female crime boss's chauffeur Mustafa Duman was captured with three "soles" of hashish and taken into custody.

Officials have stated that operations aimed at the capture of Incilay Kilinc, known by the nickname of "Octopus Inci", are continuing, and that photographs of her have been distributed to all police stations and border crossing points.

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CSO: 5300

TURKEY

MORPHINE BASE SMUGGLERS SENTENCED

Istanbul DUNYA in Turkish 9 Jun 79 p 1

Text 7 Bursa: Two persons captured while smuggling morphine base have been sentenced to life imprisonment in the First Criminal Court of Bursa.

The individuals, Hasan Selcuk and Husnu Alagoz, had come to Bursa on 12 August of last year with 15 kilos of morphine base which they had obtained in Urfa. The two had aroused suspicion while attempting to obtain passports from the Directorate of Security, and, during a search of a car which they had left in the Hurriyet section of the city, the morphine base was discovered hidden inside the hubcaps.

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CSO: 5300

TURKEY

LARGE AMOUNTS OF HEROIN, HASHISH SEIZED

Istanbul DUNYA in Turkish 7 Jun 79 pp 1,7

[Text] In six raids, Narcotics Division teams from the Police Department have seized 10 million liras' worth of heroin, 182 grams of hashish, and two pistols, as well as apprehending seven persons on charges of being involved in these matters.

Police Department officials provided the following information with regard to the operations carried out by Narcotics Division teams in Fatih, Aksaray, Sultanahmet, and Bakirkoy:

In a search made on the automobile of one Hasan Faris Cakir, of Siverek, staying in room number 102 of the Benson Hotel in Findikzade, 400 grams of heroin, with a street value of 10 million liras, was seized. Forty-eight grams of hashish were found in a search of the body and personal effects of Karl Ludwig Wilhelm Holl, a German citizen staying in room 132 of the Liz Hotel in Sultanahmet. In searches conducted in Yeni Bosna village and at Aksaray, a total of 134 grams of hashish was found in the possession of Mehmet Kahvec and Cengiz Sirin. In addition, one unlicensed pistol apiece and a total of 12 rounds of ammunition were found in the possession of Mehmet Ipek, owner of the Ipek Taxi Office at Laleli, and of Ahmet Nedin, who is employed as a reception clerk at the Sinan Hotel at Fatih.

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CSO: 5300

TURKEY

BRIEFS

HEROIN SEIZED--Airport officials have seized 11 kilos of powdered heroin with a market value of about 3 million Turkish liras in Izmir's Cigde Airport. It was learned that the heroin was being sent to a Turkish antique dealer in the FRG. The three persons who placed the heroin between copper kettles to be shipped to the FRG have been arrested. [Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2000 GMT 18 Jun 79 TA]

CSO: 5300

UNITED KINGDOM

TEN YEARS FOR 'NO 1 TRANSATLANTIC DRUG TRAFFICKER'

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 12 Jun 79 p 17

[Article by Ian Henry]

[Text]

AN American, reputed to be one of the world's leading international drugs traffickers, was jailed for 10 years at the Old Bailey yesterday.

He was caught in London in October after being stopped for a minor motor-ing offence.

Officers of Scotland Yard's drugs squad told the court that he was "reckoned to be the No. 1 man, responsible for the financing and distribution of cocaine throughout Europe, Canada and the U.S.A."

VINCENT ELBERTO, 41, took advantage of the freedom of movement following Britain's entry into the Common Market to transport South American-made cocaine through Europe and then on to the lucrative United States market.

He travelled on false passports and had twice earlier been refused entry to Britain. He was arrested at an address in Chiswick High Road, Ham-mersmith.

Red Rolls-Royce

After a three-week trial, Elberto, whose real name is Alberto, was convicted of two offences of conspiracy to supply cocaine, two of possess-ing cocaine with intent to supply, and one of conspiracy to import cocaine.

He had earlier admitted one offence of possessing cocaine, two of making false statements to obtain passports and also uttering a forged passport with intent to defraud.

Mr MICHAEL CONKERN, prosecuting, told the jury that the Common Market drug route was opened up after South American cocaine traffickers found increasing difficulty in smuggling the drug from Colombia into the United States, where prices were highest.

While in London, Elberto had a chauffeur-driven red Rolls-Royce. He regularly visited his suppliers in Colombia and kept a coded diary of his deals.

One of his former co-traffickers, now an undercover special agent with the US Drugs Enforcement Agency, was able to decipher the code and he came to Britain to give evidence.

Elberto told one American detective that he had \$2.5 million (£1.25 million) in various banks in the world. Though he later disputed this, detectives have every reason to believe his original boast.

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UNITED KINGDOM

BRIEFS

CANNABIS SMUGGLING TRIAL--A man accused of smuggling cannabis into Britain planned to create a diversion in Heathrow Airport's Customers area so that a German friend could slip through unnoticed with the drug in a case, Ipswich Crown Court was told yesterday. Mr Anthony Arlidge, prosecuting, said that George Edwards told the German Hubert Hovelborn, to throw away the key to the case and the baggage reclaim ticket to enable Hovelborn to claim he had someone else's case if he was stopped. But the plan started to go wrong said Mr Arlidge, when Hovelborn missed the plane in which he was supposed to have flown with Edwards from Morocco. When he did return to Britain a day late Edwards was not in the plane or at the airport to create the diversion. Hovelborn was stopped and questioned. Inside his bulky suitcase Customs officers found a flattened packet of cannabis hidden beneath a false bottom. They took possession of a notebook containing addresses in Sri Lanka, Germany, Cairo and Spain. But the only British name and address was that of Edwards. It led Customs to a remote farm cottage near Ipswich, where Edwards, 34, was living with a woman called Sue. Edwards denied illegally importing 306 kilos of cannabis resin valued at around 5,040 pounds. The hearing was adjourned until today. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 13 Jun 79 p 2]

DRUG FIND AT HEATHROW--Cannabis valued at 500,000 pounds on the illicit market was seized by Customs officers and police at Heathrow during the weekend. Four men were helping inquiries last night. Customs and police had kept watch on a Nigerian Airways plane which had arrived from Lagos. They moved in after seeing five 200 lb parcels being transferred from a Nigerian Airways van to another van on a perimeter road at the airport. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 18 Jun 79 p 1] Four men accused of smuggling 500,000 pounds worth of cannabis into Britain at Heathrow Airport appeared at Uxbridge Magistrates Court yesterday charged with fraudulent evasion on importation. The men, Vestin Blake, 38, of College Close, Edmonton; Anthony Richards, 32, of Monks Park, Wembley; Alvinder Marway, 22, of Byron Avenue, Cranford, Middx and Reginald Pemberton, 32, of Park View, Wembley, were remanded in custody until Monday. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 19 Jun 79 p 19]

CSO: 5320

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